



NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

TRAVELER

NATGEOTRAVEL.COM FEBRUARY / MARCH 2016

CHOOSE YOUR
OWN ADVENTURE:
53 WATER-LOVING
GETAWAYS

SPLASHY BEACHES

Italy, Greece, Turkey's Turquoise Coast

CRUISE INSIDER

Ocean vs. River

WATERFALLS

Iceland, Croatia, Venezuela

DIVE IN!



BOTSWANA,
PRIDE OF
AFRICA

AUCKLAND
LIKE A LOCAL

VISIT...

LANZAROTE
Caliente.COM



ALL EXCLUSIVE™

REINVENTS TRAVEL IN A CLASS BY ITSELF.

Ships are artists' renderings, subject to change. ©2016 Crystal Cruises, LLC. Ships' registry: The Bahamas.



Location: Norway



INTRODUCING THE NEW CRYSTAL®, WHERE ALL INCLUSIVE IS ALL EXCLUSIVE.

Starting now, The World's Most Awarded Luxury Cruise Line™ is doing far more than reinventing cruising. We are redefining luxury travel entirely, with luxurious yacht voyages and river cruises, epic land excursions and more. And soon you can travel the globe amidst the comfort of our dazzling new Exclusive Class™ ships, vessels of extraordinary design which will offer the highest space-to-guest ratio of any luxury cruise ship afloat. We're now accepting reservations for our award-winning vessels as well as the newest additions to our luxury portfolio, Crystal Yacht Cruises™ and Crystal River Cruises.™ All so you can begin a story that's never been told. It's not just all inclusive, it's All Exclusive. It's the new Crystal—and it's in a class by itself.



CRYSTAL®

CRUISES | RIVER | YACHT
LUXURY AIR | RESIDENCES



22 YEARS



20 YEARS

CALL 1-888-688-6797
OR YOUR TRAVEL PROFESSIONAL
CRYSTALCRUISES.COM

BEGIN A NEW STORY™     

Memorable Moments



An adventure between grandparents and grandchildren is like no other outing and the everyday doesn't apply. Wouldn't it be great to embark on an adventure with your grandkids?

Submit a photo of your most memorable family moment to nationalgeographic.com/memorablenoments—and you may win a 5-day/4-night Walt Disney World® vacation for 6 that includes airfare, accommodations, and more, sponsored by National Geographic.



The winning photo will be selected based on Execution of Theme, Creativity & Originality, and Photographic Quality.

For full official contest rules and to submit photo from January 26–March 28, 2016, go to nationalgeographic.com/memorablenoments.



NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. A PURCHASE WILL NOT INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING. Open to legal residents of the 50 U.S. and D.C., 18 and older. Void where prohibited. Employees of National Geographic Partners, Disney Destinations, LLC, and related parties are ineligible. TO ENTER: Go to www.nationalgeographic.com/memorablenoments ("Website") between 1/26/16 and 3/28/16. Follow directions. PRIZE: One (1) Grand Prize; one (1) Vacation package for six (6) for four (4) nights and five (5) days at the Walt Disney World® Resort in Florida. Unlimited entries allowed per person. Odds of winning depend on number of entries received and skill of entrant. Approximate Retail Value ("ARV") of Grand Prize is \$16,725.84. Entries will be judged pursuant to criteria stated in Official Rules, available at Website. Subject to additional terms & conditions contained in Official Rules. SPONSOR: National Geographic Partners, 1145 17th Street N.W., Washington, DC 20036-4688, USA.

As to Disney artwork/properties: ©Disney

The **GRAND** **ADVENTURE**

POP AND I ARE ALWAYS FINDING OURSELVES IN DEEP WATER

When grandparents and grandchildren
come together, they create
unforgettable memories. Make your next
family vacation the grandest of all.

Walt Disney World®

DisneyWorld.com/grandadventure



Contents

FOLLOW NATGEOTRAVEL



VOLUME 33, NUMBER 1

Sandibe Lodge
in Botswana's
Okavango Delta
offers prime
elephant spotting.



28

The Wilds of Auckland

Along the fringes of New Zealand's largest city, volcanoes outnumber skyscrapers, and asphalt gives way to black-sand beaches.

BY KENNEDY WARNE

42

Venture Into the Blue

Dive into 53 water experiences across the globe, from feeling the spray of Victoria Falls to soaking in Iceland's geothermal spa.

ILLUSTRATED BY
HANNA BARCZYK

68

Gently Down the Stream

On England's Oxford Canal, cruise past pastoral scenes with floating neighbors who leave formalities on shore.

BY TARA ISABELLA BURTON
PHOTOGRAPHS BY
JOHN KERNICK

80

Botswana: The Last Sanctuary

When it comes to protecting Africa's endangered species, this southern landlocked country leads the conservation pack.

BY COSTAS CHRIST
PHOTOGRAPHS BY AARON HUEY



Hello Tomorrow



Be there when India bursts into color

Celebrate the culture and history of a country unlike any other. Feel the warmth of Indian hospitality and say hello to making new friends in every language. Fly Emirates to 10 destinations across India and join the nation's many festivities.

emirates.com/us

53 destinations in Asia ♦ 22 destinations in Africa ♦ 7 destinations in Australasia

Contributors



PHOTOGRAPHER

John Kernick

"Gently Down the Stream," page 68

For this assignment, John Kernick could have opted to stay in hotels and drive to points along the Oxford Canal route. Instead, he followed in the wake of writer Tara Isabella Burton and rented a boat himself. "I wanted to immerse myself in this project. You discover unexpected things: On a canal it's just other boaters, and everyone is traveling at the same pace; no one is in a hurry. I tried to get that feeling across in my photos."

"Most of my favorite shots came from being right there on the water. In addition, there is a camaraderie among boaters, so I was taken more

seriously and everyone was willing to be photographed and share information—their favorite view, place to eat, drink, hike, et cetera. I took a folding bike on my canal boat trip, and it was wonderful to be able to explore farther than one can go on foot."

Kernick, who was born in Southampton, England, and now lives in Manhattan's West Village with his family, relishes returning to his roots. "I'm always glad to get an assignment in the U.K. In fact, I'll be back in Oxford again soon, shooting country inns in the south of England."

📸 @johnkernickphotography



WRITER

Kennedy Warne

"My City: Auckland, New Zealand," page 28

The Auckland-based Kiwi writer, who co-founded *New Zealand Geographic* in 1988, has a thing for a tree—the large and long-living native kauri. "One of my grandfathers built motor launches from straight, true kauri planks."

The other crafted kauri cabinetry, polishing the honeyed timber with the tree's own resin. I once lived in a kauri house. I play a kauri violin. I have history with this tree."



ILLUSTRATOR

Hanna Barczyk

"Into the Blue," page 42

Even though she created images for this issue's water feature, the German-born artist, who splits her time between New York City and Toronto, prefers activities on land. "I'm a fan of dancing, biking, and hiking, but I do enjoy the scenery by the water." Her favorite subjects to illustrate aren't seaside-based, either. "I love drawing local vegetation and flowers, as well as interesting characters in cafés, parks, and on the subway."

📸 @hannabarczyk

Close enough

never got you anywhere.



Shot with the EOS 7D Mark II Camera & EF 600mm f/4L IS II USM Lens

Charles Glatzer knows that in the backcountry, the unexpected and awe-inspiring can happen in an instant. Everything from the wildlife to the weather is unpredictable. But with an EOS 7D Mark II and patience, he's ready to discover and capture the majestic moments of nature that most people will never witness.

Stay focused. Be creative. Canon is with you every step of the way.

usa.canon.com/GlatzerEOS7DMarkII



Notebook

A JOURNAL FOR THE SMART TRAVELER

Dodge the Lift Lines

Not as popular as Aspen or Park City, three lesser-known North America ski spots come with plenty of elbow room.

SEE ADVENTURE



PLAY NOW



Learn more at toyota.com/tacoma

Professional drivers on closed course. Do not attempt. Prototypes shown with options.
Production models may vary. Bunny head not included. ©2015 Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.

THE ALL-NEW
TACOMA

ADVENTURE

Fresh Powder

Where to find the North American ski slopes less packed

DURANGO, COLORADO On the edge of the Four Corners region and surrounded by the mighty San Juan Mountains, this Old West railroad town of around 17,000 has blossomed into one of America's adventure sports capitals. Durango also happens to be a vibrant, family-friendly ski town—perhaps the most affordable in Colorado. Twenty-seven miles up Highway 550 is Purgatory Resort, a family and intermediate skier's dream hill, with 91 trails, ten lifts, five terrain parks, and a seemingly endless supply of groomed rollers for catching flight.

REVELSTOKE, BRITISH COLUMBIA Carved out of the central British Columbia wilderness, Revelstoke is the only ski area in North America where skiers and boarders can get to the goods via lifts, snowcats, and helicopters from the same base. For in-bounds powder seekers, a little hiking goes a long way here. Head for the dizzyingly deep and steep North Bowl, where you can re-create your favorite ski magazine cover shots. The region is also an epicenter for heli-skiing, with as many opportunities to get whisked to mountaintops as your wallet allows.

WAITSFIELD, VERMONT This woodsy ski paradise in northern Vermont's Mad River Valley is establishing itself as the quietly humming soul of eastern skiing. Mad River Glen—the nation's only cooperatively owned ski area—is the definition of old school, with narrow, plunging trails cut by hand almost 70 years ago in traditional New England style. It can't be bothered with things like high-speed chairs, condos, and snowboards, which aren't allowed. If you're looking for a pure, rustic skiing experience, this is your spot. —AARON TEASDALE

IAN McDONNELL/ISTOCKPHOTO

Snowcapped cabin in Durango, Colorado



TRAVELTEXAS.COM > THINGS TO DO > OUTDOOR



SEE WHERE
THE WEST
— IS STILL —
PLENTY
Wild



THE TEXAS GREAT OUTDOORS
EXPLORE IT AND OTHER WONDERS
AT TRAVELTEXAS.COM/OUTDOOR

TEXAS

It's like a
WHOLE OTHER COUNTRY



THE BUZZ

Bee Season

Get a taste of the hive in these honeybee-loving U.S. cities.

As bees continue to be plagued by a mysterious syndrome that leaves queen bees without workers, more communities are supporting these natural pollinators. “The lack of knowledge about bees is astounding,” says Phyllis Stiles, director of Bee City USA, a nonprofit certification program launched to raise awareness and create sustainable habitats. The focus on the plight of bees has spurred interest in the sweet syrup they produce, giving people an opportunity to sell, cook, and experiment with honey. Travelers can help. Make a beeline for these cities:

ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

Bee City USA was founded here, making the city the original hub of honey. There are honey festivals, themed stores (the Asheville Bee Charmer), and spa treatments (Grove Park Inn). The North Carolina Arboretum declared 2016 the “Year of the Pollinator.”

PHOENIX, OREGON

This tiny city (pop. 6,503) is home to Wylie's Honey Brews, creator of artisanal sodas sweetened with raw honey. With three Oregon Bee Cities (the others are Ashland, which is hosting a honey fest this August, and Talent), the bee bug has spread statewide.

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

The Fairmont Olympic Hotel maintains an 18-hive rooftop apiary that produces a whopping 600 pounds of honey annually. Try the Pike Honeymoon Suite, an ale made from the rooftop's bounty, or the roots salad with toasted bee pollen. —LINDSAY TAUB



Bees in Corvallis, Oregon, help pollinate sage fields (top). Seattle's Pike Honeymoon Suite ale (above), uses honey from the Fairmont Olympic Hotel's rooftop hive.

“FLY LIKE A SUPERHERO”



julie h, Florida

Toro Verde Nature Adventure Park, Orocovis



Flamenco Beach, Culebra



Casinos



Old San Juan

PUERTO RICO AWAITS!

With so many world class attractions to explore and enjoy, your days and nights will be filled with unforgettable experiences:

- Breathtaking beaches perfect for relaxing or enjoying your favorite water sport, including Flamenco in Culebra, one of the most award-winning in the world
- Historic and unique Old San Juan, with structures that are UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- 3 of the world's 6 bioluminescent bays are in Puerto Rico
- El Yunque, the only tropical rainforest in the United States Forest System
- Toro Verde, nature adventure park with the tallest and longest ziplines in the world
- Over 20 golf courses with breathtaking views
- A vibrant and music-filled nightlife
- World famous local cuisine that will enchant your taste buds

Come to Puerto Rico and live your own five star vacation story.



Puerto Rico ★
THE ALL STAR ISLAND





YOUR SHOT

Sea of Saturation

Vibrant colors brighten a sunny Sardinian beach.

For Italian photographer Giuseppe Cabras, a day at the beach isn't really a day at the beach. "My camera is the only way I can survive a long, hot day by the sea." While strolling along Cala Banana beach, in Sardinia, he found his ideal subject in the form of a clothing vendor sporting some serious shades. "I saw that the man had a pretty large mirror for his customers, so I asked him to pose for me, holding the mirror in his hands. The woman did the rest by continuing to look at the vibrant pants. Basically, this is a half-staged picture."

"Although the photographer set up the scene, it feels spontaneous," says senior photo editor Carol Enquist. "As the photographer walked the beach, he recognized that he had come across the elements for a great photograph—the vendor wearing sunglasses, the large mirror, the colorful clothing, and the attractive woman browsing the items—and he worked with his subjects until the details came together perfectly."

■ JOIN OUR ONLINE PHOTOGRAPHY COMMUNITY AT NATGEYOURSHOT.COM.

LOCAL FLAVOR

Nashville Heat

"Hot chicken" is Nashville's most famous dish. And residents love to argue who fries it best.



Sample the spice spectrum at Prince's Hot Chicken in Nashville.

PRINCE'S HOT CHICKEN SHACK

Origin: In the 1930s, according to local legend, Thornton Prince came home late again. It wasn't the first time he'd cheated on his girlfriend, but it was the last time she was going to put up with it. She doctored his fried chicken with an incendiary level of cayenne pepper. A Depression-era romantic comedy resulted—Prince loved the super-spicy bird, created a secret recipe, and opened Nashville's first "hot chicken" joint in the mid '30s.

Famous for: Today, the tiny, seat-yourself location (which on busy days serves up as many as 500 orders) is run by his great-niece André Prince Jeffries and offers four spice levels: mild, medium, hot, and extra hot. Served in a basket with sliced white bread and pickles, the chicken is wonderfully juicy inside, fried to perfection outside. Women tend to order on the spicier side, but Prince's gives the same advice to every customer: Don't touch your eyes—that bird is saturated with seasoning.

Strategy: Arrive a few minutes before it opens or on a Wednesday, when it's quietest. Each piece is fried to order, and devotees will wait two hours or more in line.

HATTIE B'S

Origin: Nick Bishop, Sr., opened his first location in 2012, four blocks from Vanderbilt University. Named after the three women in his family named Hattie Bishop, the restaurant has since become a classic. Bishop now has a second location in West Nashville, and his third will open in Birmingham, Alabama, this spring.

Famous for: Mild/medium is the most popular spice level, but the brave can shoot right to "Shut the Cluck Up." "That one's generally sold to guys who lost a football bet or bachelor parties," says Bishop. The chicken's secret brine and marinade ensure a crispy skin and a flavorful center at every level. The pimento mac-and-cheese and black-eyed pea salad are popular choices to temper the burn.

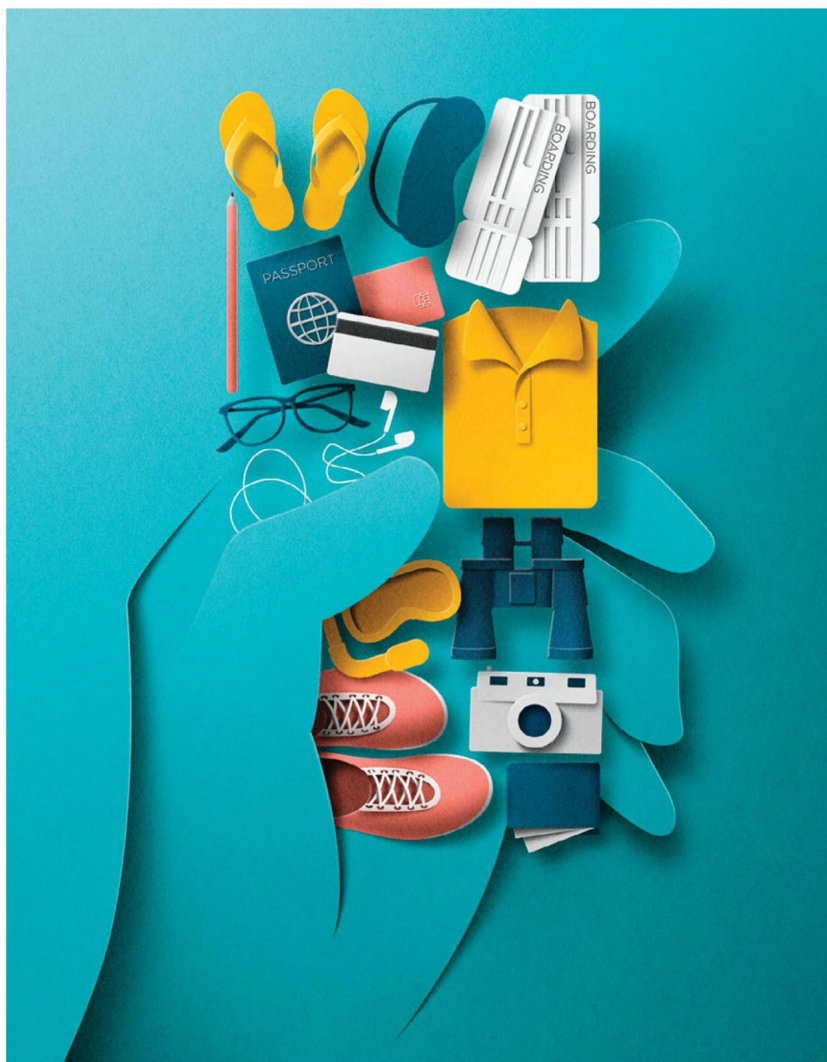
Strategy: Despite seats for 80 at one location and 130 at the other, expect to wait at peak lunch and dinner hours. It's a perfect opportunity to enjoy the large selection of Nashville craft beers. —JENNY ADAMS

■ FOR MORE FOOD-RELATED TRAVEL, VISIT NATGEOTRAVEL.COM/INTERNATIONAL-FOODS.

TOOLS

Apps to Travel By

Three mobile downloads that will take the stress out of travel



PACKPOINT FOR THE PACK RAT



Suitcase stuffers, cool your jets: With just a few taps of your fingertip, PackPoint generates customized packing lists based on gender, location, and length of stay. Before spitting out a detailed list of must-haves, the app checks the weather forecast and considers your itinerary, suggesting clothing to help you plan accordingly. Free for iOS and Android.

■ FAVORITE TRAVEL APPS? TWEET THEM TO US @NATGEOGTRAVEL.



LOUNGEBUDDY FOR THE LONG LAYOVER

LoungeBuddy? More like LoungeBestie. The app propels avid travelers into pro territory, unlocking a labyrinth of airport lounges and their amenities. Sync your itinerary to see your options—rated from Luxe to Basic, along with photos, price, services, and user reviews—and book directly on your phone, before takeoff or on the fly. Free for iOS and Android.



STRAVA FOR THE WEEKEND WARRIOR

Strava makes solo fitness social, no matter where you are. The app connects cyclists and runners through shared routes, with locals' favorite spots mapped across the world. On its website, Strava also offers athletic-minded guides for cities, from São Paulo to Sydney. Free for iOS and Android.

—HANNAH LOTT-SCHWARTZ



Beachside bungalows at Cocoperle Lodge, in French Polynesia, open the door to local culture.

CHECKING IN

The Guesthouse Option

Go small at three hot spots known for big resorts.

FRENCH POLYNESIA

Cocoperle, Ahe Atoll, Tuamotu Islands

Honeymooners head to French Polynesia's all-inclusive resorts, but a growing number of pensions provide traditional lodgings and a chance to learn about local life. Cocoperle and 19 other pensions have even partnered with Air Tahiti Nui to offer packages that include airfare. Go fishing, visit a pearl farm, and then retire to one of Cocoperle's four bungalows, fragrant with flowers. From \$153 per person per night. www.cocoperlelodge.com

RIVIERA MAYA, MEXICO

Hotel La Semilla, Playa del Carmen

In the midst of the Riviera Maya's busy tourist scene, this nine-room inn feels like a private hacienda. The sandy Caribbean beach is just two blocks away. Owners Alexis Schärer and Angie Rodriguez hope guests will feel at home—if only home came with warm Mexican sunshine, a garden hammock swinging under copal trees, an outdoor terrace with panoramic ocean and jungle views, and chocolates on your pillow. From \$200. www.hotellasequilla.com

MALDIVES

TME Guesthouses, Dhigurah Island, South Ari Atoll

Famed for fabulous beaches and glamorous resorts that cater to the likes of Kate and Will, this Indian Ocean nation recently legalized village-based lodging, such as this 17-room inn with its simple rooms and open-air dining. Spend the day watching whale sharks or swimming with manta rays, then relax on a *jolie* (the ubiquitous Maldivian version of a park bench) to socialize with the locals at sunset. From \$50. www.tme.mv —DIANE SELKIRK



Japan. Endless Discovery.

ADVERTISEMENT



Northern Japan in Bloom

Spring is Japan's most dazzling season, famous for its millions of cherry trees that paint the country with billowing, cloud-like profusions of flowers. While Tokyo and Kyoto have long been popular with blossom-viewing enthusiasts, Tohoku and Hokkaido in northern Japan are virtually unknown to foreign visitors, despite their equally spectacular displays of the delicate, ephemeral petals.

With the March opening of the new Hokkaido Shinkansen High-Speed Rail connecting Tokyo with Hokkaido, travelers will find it easier than ever to hop aboard the train, consult the annual *Sakura Zensen* (Cherry Blossom Forecast) meticulously provided by the press and weather bureaus, and follow the progression of the cherry-blossom season as it unfurls across the country from the south to the north. Late April and early May are the best times for viewing cherry blossoms across northern Japan.

There are many famous cherry-blossom viewing spots throughout Tohoku and Hokkaido, but several standouts, complete with festivals and nighttime illuminations, are top on the list. In **Kitakami**, 10,000 cherry trees line both sides of a 1.2-mile promenade, forming an ethereal tunnel of cherry blossoms through which you can stroll or ride in a horse-drawn carriage. Sightseeing boats on the adjacent Kitami River are another way to enjoy the dreamlike spectacle, especially during the **Kitakami Tenshochi Cherry Blossom Festival**, when carp streamers strung across the river flutter in the breeze.

Farther north, **Hirosaki** boasts one of the most famous cherry-blossom scenes in Japan, with the ancient tower, gate and moat of **Hirosaki Castle** providing dramatic background to more than 2,600 cherry trees of approximately 50 different varieties. Other sights include old samurai residences, the 16th-century **Chosho-ji Temple**, and a five-story pagoda.

Hakodate, the terminus of the Hokkaido Shinkansen High-Speed Rail on the island of Hokkaido, attracts sightseers to **Goyokaku Park**, a 19th-century star-shaped fort surrounded by many cherry trees. An old port town, Hakodate is also famous for its morning market and night views.

A traditional Japanese custom, *hanami* (flower viewing) in the spring not only celebrates the birth of the season but also acknowledges the transient beauty of the blossom and thus of life itself. By timing a trip to Tohoku and Hokkaido with the cherry-blossom season, you'll be part of a rite that has inspired Japanese culture for centuries.

Start planning your journey to Japan's spectacular Tohoku and Hokkaido region at <http://us.jnto.go.jp>



PHOTO CREDITS: HIROSAKI CASTLE © IWAO KATAOKA/SEBUN PHOTO. KITAKAMI CITY PARK TENSCHOCI © SHOGORO/SEBUN PHOTO / AMANAIMAGES; ALL OTHERS COURTESY OF JAPAN NATIONAL TOURISM ORGANIZATION.



facebook.com/visitjapan



twitter.com/visit_japan



pinterest.com/visitjapanusa

<http://us.jnto.go.jp>

TRAVEL WITH HEART

Free as a Bird

Celebrating Cambodia's safe haven for endangered birds

The local villagers along Cambodia's Sangke River who once stole eggs from the nests of endangered birds now protect those same species. February marks the 15th anniversary of the Prek Toal bird sanctuary, located in the northwest part of the river. The Prek Toal area is populated by a distinctive community of floating homes, schools, and general stores, and also happens to be the most important breeding ground

for globally endangered waterbirds in Southeast Asia.

The Cambodian communist regime, the Khmer Rouge, controlled the Prek Toal region until its fall in 1979, and severe poaching of bird eggs for food began when villagers returned. However, the number of birds in Prek Toal has increased dramatically thanks to conservationists who've trained former egg thieves to report sightings of poaching in

exchange for community development incentives like money for fish farming and restaurant development. Over the past 15 years, the spot-billed pelican population has grown from 200 to 1,000 birds, and the greater adjutant from 20 to 300 birds. During Prek Toal's dry season, December through May, bird-watchers from all over the world can witness the abundant avian diversity worth saving.

—ADRIENNE JORDAN

Protected birds flock together in Cambodia's Prek Toal sanctuary.



TERRY WHITTAKER



Set the mood.

World-Class Amenities. Sonoran Desert Style.

Come for our sparkling turquoise pools. Stay for all the things that shine – celebrity chefs, championship golf courses, Sonoran Desert-inspired spa treatments. Your Scottsdale getaway is waiting.



Scottsdale

StayInScottsdale.com 800.252.3130



Hike Wheeler
Geologic Area in
Colorado.

THE POWER OF PARKS

AMERICA'S HIDDEN GEMS

*Former national parks that are
still worth a visit.*

Wheeler Geologic Area, a wonderland of stone pinnacles and hoodoos (above), was once a top Colorado attraction. Now, only backcountry hikers and those willing to drive 13 miles on a dirt road earn a glimpse of one of America's more unusual landscapes. President Theodore Roosevelt designated this volcanic tuff formation, about 250 miles southwest of Denver, Wheeler National Monument in 1908. It became part of the National Park Service in 1933 but was scarcely visited because of its remote location. Unable to justify maintenance fees, the Park Service removed Wheeler from its list in 1950, one of dozens of "ghost parks" dropped from the parks system because of upkeep costs and low visitation.

From Alaska to the Caribbean, America's ghost parks linger, in shopping centers, along highways, in wildernesses. Many live on as state parks or are managed by such federal agencies as the Forest Service—which oversees Wheeler—and most remain accessible to the public. They range from a bronze cross in upstate New York (Father Millet Cross) to a natural cross in the Rockies visible only when it snows; from Fort Christian, the oldest building in the Virgin Islands, to Michigan's Mackinac Island, established in 1875 as America's second national park and delisted in 1895. —BRAD SCRIBER

■ FOR MORE ON NATIONAL PARKS, VISIT [NATGEO.COM/POWER-OF-PARKS](https://www.natgeo.com/power-of-parks).

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TRAVELER

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

Omni Scottsdale Resort & Spa at Montelucia • April 1 - 4, 2016 • Scottsdale, Arizona



Join National Geographic photographers **Nevada Wier** and **Dan Westergren** for a hands-on photography workshop amid Scottsdale's spectacular scenery. See how the pros explore a place visually, find the perfect lighting, and anticipate great moments as you engage in classroom sessions and field shooting. Stay at the luxurious **Omni Scottsdale Resort & Spa at Montelucia**—a luxury hotel, architecturally inspired by the Andalusia region of Spain, but set amid the natural splendor of Camelback mountain and Arizona's intriguing desert landscape.

SPECIAL WEEKEND PACKAGE

\$1,799

Price per person.

Includes workshop, accommodations, and most meals. Airfare not included.

ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHERS



Award-winning photographer **Nevada Wier** explores the world on assignment for National Geographic and dozens of other publications. She specializes in documenting the remote corners of the globe and the cultures that inhabit them. Nevada's numerous journeys have taken her to places throughout Southeast Asia, India, China, Nepal, Mongolia, Africa, and South America, just to name a few.



National Geographic photographer and former director of photography for National Geographic Traveler for 15 years, **Dan Westergren** was responsible for the magazine's award-winning photographic vision. He is also an experienced teacher, having led workshops for National Geographic all over the world.

Register Now: nationalgeographic.com/scottsdale or email brad.roberts@natgeo.com


Scottsdale
Bring your passion for life.®

 NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC
TRAVELER

OMNI  HOTELS & RESORTS
montelucia | scottsdale



A New Year's party in China made an impression on *Wild* by Nature author Sarah Marquis.

BOOKSHELF

What to Read Now

Three new titles float us from Siberia to Switzerland.

WILD BY NATURE BY SARAH MARQUIS

Sarah Marquis, a National Geographic Adventurer of the Year, hiked solo from Siberia to Thailand and through Australia. She evokes both the lows and the highs of this incredible trek, including New Year's celebrations in China.

NATIVE BY SAYED KASHUA

Israeli-Palestinian journalist Sayed Kashua's heartfelt, often humorous collection of newspaper columns illuminates everyday life in Jerusalem with heartbreaking precision. Taken together, they're "the one story where the story of the other is not denied."

THE THEORETICAL FOOT BY M. F. K. FISHER

This previously unpublished autobiographical first novel by the acclaimed food writer presents a snapshot of a certain slice of American expat life in Switzerland in the late 1930s, all sumptuous feasts and sun-dappled terraces.

—DON GEORGE

■ MARCH IS NATIONAL READING MONTH! FOR MORE BOOK REVIEWS, VISIT NATGEOTRAVEL.COM.



NAT GEO JOURNEYS

AMBASSADOR OF ADVENTURE

Bruce Poon Tip, founder of G Adventures, an innovative tour company that now offers trips with National Geographic, talks hairy souvenirs, tourism benefits, and bungee jumps.

WHY DOES TRAVEL MATTER? Travel is good for the soul. Understanding other cultures and other people gives you a better appreciation of where you come from. I always say travel is the fastest path to peace. It's a vehicle to get rid of a lot of ignorance because you realize how ultimately everyone's connected.

WHAT'S AN ACTIVITY YOU'RE GLAD YOU TRIED BUT WOULDN'T WANT TO AGAIN? I used to bungee jump and not think about it, but then I had kids, and kids give you a reason to live. Prior to that, I had a "live today, for tomorrow we die" attitude. I used to throw myself off bridges, which is ridiculous when I think about it now. I don't recall a rush, I just recall screaming my guts out.

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU MAKE SURE TO TAKE HOME FROM YOUR TRAVELS? I bring back masks from trips where cultures actually use masks. I have 100-year-old ones from Burkina Faso and Cameroon with real hair.

—HANNAH SHEINBERG

■ FOR MORE ON NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC'S NEW TRIPS WITH G ADVENTURES, VISIT NATGEOTRAVEL.COM.

Did you know a group of sea turtles is called a *bale*?

Did you also know a group of National Geographic members who insure their car with GEICO are called Savers? That's right, as a member and subscriber of Nat Geo, you could save even more on your car insurance with a **special discount**. Join your fellow members who already insure their car with GEICO, and you could end up saving a bale of money, too.

geico.com/natgeo | 1-866-496-3576

GEICO®



Some discounts, coverages, payment plans and features are not available in all states or all GEICO companies. Discount amount varies in some states. One group discount applicable per policy. Coverage is individual. In New York a premium reduction may be available. GEICO is a registered service mark of Government Employees Insurance Company, Washington, D.C. 20076; a Berkshire Hathaway Inc. subsidiary. © 2014 GEICO

EXPLORER

Guitar Hero

Musician Joe Pug takes his show on America's roads.

Punched by a cowgirl. Charged at by an elk. Singer and songwriter Joe Pug, who released his latest album, *Windfall*, last March, has plenty of material for between-song anecdotes thanks to years of touring around the United States.

THE IDEA OF TOURING GETS ROMANTICIZED.

WHAT'S IT ACTUALLY LIKE? It's the fun version of being a traveling salesman. We're not going to see the St. Louis arch or the Grand Canyon. We're driving the van, sound checking, selling merchandise—it's all work. With that being said, you get to a point where you have a favorite restaurant in every city and you have a favorite bar for a nightcap in every city, and frankly, you have friends in every city.

WHERE DO YOU ALWAYS STOP TO EAT IF YOU'RE IN ITS VICINITY? Kramarczuk's, a cafeteria-style eastern European emporium that is legendary in Minneapolis but not known well elsewhere.

WHAT HELPS YOU BREAK UP THE MONOTONY OF TOURING? In the van, I listen to podcasts the whole time on my headphones, [such as] *This American Life*, Dan Carlin's *Hardcore History*, Sam Harris's *Waking Up*, Bill Burr's *Monday Morning*, and, of course, Marc Maron.

WHERE'S THE BEST PLACE YOU'VE GOTTEN LOST IN? An accidental drive between Boise, Idaho, and Pullman, Washington, on scenic Idaho 55, which winds along the Payette and Snake Rivers. We drove over one crest and saw a vista that made everyone in the van start spontaneously applauding. —HANNAH SHEINBERG

■ FOR MORE OF OUR INTERVIEW WITH JOE PUG, VISIT NATGEOTRAVEL.COM.



SARAH COGHILL



SHHH, THE GIANTS ARE SLEEPING

A train, once large, feels like no more than a marble — rolling down a track laid at the feet of giants. Journey through the Canadian Rocky Mountains on Rocky Mountaineer, and experience a train ride that dwarfs the imagination. Enjoy impeccable meals made with local fare, seamless service and camaraderie with an international cast of travellers taking in the same eye-popping scenery that you are.

Choose your route, pick your package & book today.



ROCKY MOUNTAINEER®

All aboard amazing

Three ways to book: ① RockyMountaineer.com ② Toll-free 1.800.665.7245 ③ Contact your travel agent



MY CITY

THE WILDS OF AUCKLAND

BY KENNEDY WARNE

It takes 12 minutes to walk across Auckland at its narrowest point. Let me elaborate. The North Island of New Zealand, of which Auckland is the largest city, looks like a fish with its head pointing south. At roughly the base of the fish's tail, two decent-size bites have been taken out of each flank, leaving two harbors. Central Auckland fills the isthmus in between.

Maori dragged their canoes across the isthmus here, on what is now known as Portage Road. At an intersection, a weathered plaque informs passersby that this half-mile connection "must be surely the shortest road between two seas anywhere in the world."

There's a volcano nearby, and I climb it. Auckland



JENNY & TONY ENDERBY/GETTY IMAGES (MAORI ART)



is a city of volcanoes. Fifty of them lie within a 12-mile radius of downtown. They have been erupting for a quarter of a million years. The most recent—and the biggest—was Rangitoto, an island on Auckland's front doorstep. The volcanoes blew up, and then they went extinct. Not one of them has erupted twice, but the magma field beneath the city is still alive. Between a hundred and a thousand years from now, say the volcanologists, it will give fiery birth again.

Fourteen of the city's volcanic cones have been returned to Maori ownership. I'm not Maori, but it matters to me that the people of the land have been given back their ancestral peaks. Maori named and

knew all these volcanoes. They terraced them for gardens, built redoubts on them, fought bloody battles to defend them. When they recount the history of Auckland (which they know as Tamaki Makaurau—Tamaki of a hundred lovers), their words swoop like seabirds across the many summits as they name the cardinal points of their tribal geography.

I envy their connection to place. I have lived 54 of my 57 years in this city, but I seem to have occupied it without really inhabiting it.

Wendell Berry, the sage of Kentucky, says you can't know who you are until you know where you are. What seems important to me now is not just to be aware of

Auckland is a city of volcanoes, including Maungawhau/Mount Eden (above). It's also a city of water, overseen by Tangaroa, the Maori god of the sea (left).

■ FOR MORE LOCALS WHO LOVE THEIR TOWN, VISIT NATGEOTRAVEL.COM/I-HEART-MY-CITY.

my place but to be alive to it. So I stand on a cattle-cropped summit and pay my respects to a 30,000-year-old mountain.

This time of year—midwinter—sees the rising of the Pleiades in the night sky. To Maori it is Matariki, the pivot of each year. The old people often die at Matariki. They see it as a time for the changing of the guard. The old net is put away, they say, and the new net goes fishing.

I head west to the mountainous rim of the city, the Waitakere Ranges. Logged for its prime timber a century ago, this 15-mile stretch of rugged forest is now a heritage area, crisscrossed with trails, a green rampart between the city and the coast.

I cycle the ridge road through thin drifts of cloud, the forest's exhalations. It would be easy to get a crick in the neck on this road, self-evidently named Scenic Drive, where tree ferns lean into the roadway and forest birds soar overhead.

A short walking track takes me to a solitary kauri. If I had a totem tree, the kauri would be it. Kauris have trunks like

stone columns and crowns that spread like worshipping arms. In those crowns live multitudes. Perching plants build miniature forests in the forks of the branches. No one knows how many creatures live in these islands in the sky. I've climbed into these crowns and felt I was in a foreign country.

Beyond the western range lies an even wilder side to Auckland. Here the mountains fall sharply into the Tasman Sea. Powerful surf pounds this coast incessantly. Most of the beaches have black iron sand, which heats up in summer to almost untreadable temperatures.

But it's winter, and on a windy Saturday afternoon at Te Henga, the surf is too big for swimming, the undertow too strong. I wade in as far as I dare. I grin wildly as the water sucks at my legs.

I'm drawn to these city fringes—the harbors, mountains, islands, and coasts—but I've also learned to look for the wild in the cracks of the tame. Jogging distance from my suburban home, there's a creek that runs in a deep valley between a commuter road

and a sprawling university campus. Few Aucklanders know it exists, but it's become the place I go to be stitched into the fabric of the world.

A century ago, Englishman Rudyard Kipling commemorated Auckland in a poem. It was the first poem I learned at school, and, even to a child, the first line struck a plangent chord: *Last, loneliest, loveliest, exquisite, apart.*

Auckland's a grown-up city now. Like any city its size, Auckland has money on its mind. As if 50 volcanoes weren't a sufficient visual signature, the city fathers decided 20 years ago to erect a 1,000-foot-high tower in the heart of the commercial district.

But down by the creek, or in the forest, or on a wind-lashed shore, Kipling's words still hold true. These are places of loneliness and loveliness, places apart. These are the places that hold me.

KENNEDY WARNE *is an outdoorsman, writer, and founding editor of New Zealand Geographic magazine.*



Low tide reveals a wide stretch of Piha Beach's black iron sands.



MONTANA

8 ULTIMATE ROAD TRIPS

**THE BEST
OF BIG SKY
COUNTRY**



Hike to the top of Lower
Yellowstone Falls.
Cover: Peer into majestic
Bighorn Canyon.

THERE'S A SENSE IN MONTANA that anything is possible. This is a special place: unspoiled, rugged, and wild. The boundless blue skies and majestic mountains inspire discovery every season of the year. Hiking trails lead to glacial lakes and wildflower meadows. Abundant wildlife—including buffalo, bear, and elk—roam free. Ghost towns and a one-of-a-kind Dinosaur Trail preserve a dazzling array of historical treasures. And, eight Indian Nations celebrate the state's rich American Indian heritage. Best of all, the locals' welcoming spirit makes every traveler feel at home.

Expand your horizons and discover the possibilities in Montana. To help you start planning your trip to Big Sky country, we've charted eight Ultimate Montana Road Trips. For an extended version of each route—including interactive maps, additional photos, other destinations, and more—visit nationalgeographic.com/montana/roadtrips.

1. Yellowstone Country

The Route: Livingston > I-90 to Columbus > MT-78 to Red Lodge > U.S. 212 to Yellowstone National Park entrance > Exit Montana to Wyoming > U.S. 212 > Grand Loop Road > US-89 to Gardiner > Exit Wyoming to Montana > U.S. 89 > MT-540 through Paradise Valley > U.S. 89 to Livingston
Total Distance: approximately 360 miles
Gateway Airport: Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport, Bozeman

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE and spectacular scenery abound on this five-day scenic loop through southern Montana and into Yellowstone National Park. Hike on a wilderness plateau. Raft the Stillwater River. Horseback ride in Paradise Valley. Along the way, make a stop to soak in a hot springs-fed pool.

ON THE FLY Begin in Livingston with a pilgrimage to **Dan Bailey's**, the all-things-angler shop founded in 1938 by the father of Montana fly-fishing. Buy hand-tied flies, hire a local fishing guide, or get tips on where the trout are biting that day. **Eat & Stay:** Livingston Bar and Grille and Yellowstone Valley Lodge, Livingston.

RIDE OR RAFT Trade your car for a horse and hit the trail. **Paintbrush Adventures** in Absarokee leads rides into Montana's highest mountains. **Bear Paw Outfitters** in Paradise Valley offers trips to places like **Yellowstone** and **Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness**. Or, take a pulse-pounding rafting trip down the Stillwater River with **Absaroka River Adventures**. **Eat & Stay:** Café Regis and The Pollard, Red Lodge.

PEAK PERFORMANCE Soak in the scenery on the Beartooth Highway (U.S. 212), an All-American Road connecting Red Lodge to the northeast entrance of **Yellowstone**

National Park. The highway (open late May to mid-October) leads past 20 peaks of more than 12,000 feet and over the 10,900-plus-foot **Beartooth Plateau**. **Eat & Stay:** Beartooth Café, Cooke City (open late May to late September), and **Silver Gate Lodging**, Silver Gate.

WIDE-EYED WONDER Prepare to be amazed as you follow the Grand Loop Road south through **Yellowstone National Park**. Highlights include the **Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone**; the bubbling **Mud Volcano** area; and the **Mammoth Hot Springs**, a hotbed of geothermal formations. **Eat & Stay:** Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel and Cabins (open late April to early October, and mid-December to March), Yellowstone National Park.

ROAD LESS TRAVELED Turn onto scenic U.S. 89 in Livingston to take the Paradise Valley Scenic Drive. Paralleling the **Upper Yellowstone River** between the Absaroka and Gallatin mountain ranges, the drive passes

through pasturelands of the lower valley, and delivers pure Montana mountain and river vistas. **Eat & Stay:** K-Bar Pizza, Gardiner, and **Chico Hot Springs Resort and Day Spa**, Pray.

2. Great Plains Adventures

The Route: Fort Benton > U.S. 87 > Havre > U.S. 2 > Malta > U.S. 191 > MT-3 > MT-80 > Fort Benton
Total Distance: approximately 400 miles
Gateway Airport: Great Falls International, Great Falls

FOR MONTANA'S NATIVE American people, bison, or buffalo, are revered symbols of strength and unity. Celebrate the bison, see them roam, and discover how the mighty buffalo helped create the state on this six-day drive across Big Sky badlands and prairies.

BIRTHPLACE OF MONTANA Start where the state began in **Fort Benton**, once the world's largest inland port. At the **Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument**, buy a two-day admission to the center, **Old Fort Benton**, the **Museum of the Upper Missouri**, and the **Museum of the Northern Great Plains**. **Eat & Stay:** Union Grille and **Grand Union Hotel**, Fort Benton.

SADDLE UP The next day, go antiquing at the **Virgelle Mercantile**. Try horseback riding at **Sky View Guest Ranch** (reservations required), and see the "buffalo rock" used as a bison scratching post. **Eat & Stay:** Navlivka's **Original Pizza Kitchen** and **Best Western Plus Havre Inn and Suites**, Havre.

ALL ABOUT THE BISON Stop at **Wahkpa Chu'gn Archaeological Site** (open June to Labor





Day) to see a buffalo jump with an excavated wall of archaeological deposits, including compacted buffalo bones and skulls. See wild bison on a guided tour of the **Fort Belknap Indian Reservation's** buffalo reserve. (Call 406 353 4350 or 406 945 0014 for reservations.) **Eat & Stay:** (Detour east to Malta on U.S. 2) **Great Northern Hotel and Steakhouse**, Malta.

DINOSAURS & DETOURS Play paleontologist at the **Great Plains Dinosaur Museum** and **Phillips County Museum** in Malta. Take a side trip to either **Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge** (follow Old U.S. 2 east) or **Sleeping Buffalo Hot Springs Resort** (via U.S. 2 east). **Eat & Stay:** **Great Northern Hotel and Steakhouse**, Malta.

RAILROAD & REFUGE Return to the route by taking U.S. 191 about 74 miles south to MT-66. Next is the self-guided **Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge** auto tour through the badlands. Northwest of Lewistown ride the **Charlie Russell Chew Choo** Montana dinner train (select weekend days in summer and early fall). **Eat & Stay:** **Dash Inn** and **Historic Calvert Hotel**, Lewistown.

BACK IN TIME On the drive back to **Fort Benton** pull off at **Bear Gulch Pictographs**, a 313-million-year-old limestone inland sea formation with more than 3,000 drawings by ancient peoples. **Eat & Stay:** **Wake Cup Coffee House and Bakery** and **The Lark and Laurel Bed and Breakfast**, Fort Benton.

3. Small Towns and Ghost Towns

The Route: Dillon > MT-41 > MT-287 through Virginia City to Ennis > U.S. 287 > MT-2 through Cardwell to Butte

Shortcut: Take I-90 from Cardwell to Butte for a faster drive. **Total Distance:** approximately 300 miles **Gateway Airport:** Bert Mooney Airport, Butte

WANDER through authentic 1800s ghost towns on this rambling four-day route over mountains, across the Continental Divide, and along blue-ribbon trout streams. Butte (population 33,854) is the “big city” on the drive. Legend has it some of the smaller towns harbor gold-rush-era ghosts.

DIG IN Begin in Butte, once known as the “richest hill on Earth” thanks to a multi-billion-dollar mining industry. Take an underground tour at the **World Museum of Mining**, located on the former site of the **Orphan Girl** silver and zinc mine. Continue this theme at **Headframe Spirits**, makers of **Orphan Girl Bourbon Cream Liqueur**. In



the distillery's tasting room, try an **Orphan Girl Chocolate Drift** (mixed with vodka and chocolate syrup). **Eat & Stay:** **Joe's Pasty Shop** and **Finlen Hotel and Motor Inn**, Butte.

FIELD TRIP Consider detouring at **Wise River** (west on MT-43 past Wisdom) to **Big Hole National Battlefield**. This sacred site of the Nez Perce people is part of the multistate **Nez Perce National Historical Park**. At Wise River, slow down and enjoy the scenery along the 49-mile-long **Pioneer Mountains Scenic Byway**. In summer, visit the ghost town of Coolidge. **Eat & Stay:** **Jackson Hot Springs Lodge**, Jackson Hot Springs.

GO GHOSTBUSTERS Stop in the route's three best-preserved ghost towns: **Bannack State Park**, **Nevada City**, and **Virginia City** (which remains a living town with about 190 full-time residents). The latter two towns house a collection of 19th-century buildings and Americana, including more than a hundred arcade and music machines. If visiting in summer, reserve tickets for Virginia City's bawdy **Brewery Follies** or family-friendly **Virginia City Players** shows. **Eat & Stay:** **Bale of Hay Saloon** (May to September), Virginia City, and **Nevada City Hotel and Cabins**, Nevada City.

CATCH AND RELEASE Spend the day fishing (or learning to fly-fish) in the tiny town of **Ennis** with such fly-fishing outfitters as the **Tackle Shop**, **Madison River Fishing Company**, and **Trout Stalkers**. Buy or rent outdoor gear, book a guided fly-fishing trip (April to November 1), or get angling tips. Continue on to **Norris Hot Springs** (open year round), known locally as "water of the gods." While soaking, watch for deer and antelope. **Eat & Stay:** **Banditos**, Ennis, and **Norris Hot Springs Campground** (May to September), Norris.

4. Backbone of the Rockies

The Route: Kalispell > U.S. 93 > Whitefish > MT-40 > U.S. 2E > Glacier Route 1 > Going-to-the-Sun Road > St. Mary > U.S. 89 toward Babb > Many Glacier Road to Many Glacier > backtrack on Many Glacier Road to U.S. 89 and back to St. Mary > MT-49 > 2 Medicine Road to Two Medicine Lake > backtrack to MT-49 > East Glacier > U.S. 2W > MT-206 > MT-35 > Kalispell
Total Distance: approximately 265 miles
Gateway Airport: Glacier Park International Airport, Kalispell

RUGGED, WILD, and incredibly scenic, this five-day trip is filled with only-in-Montana experiences. Travel Glacier National Park's legendary Going-to-the-Sun



Above: Go fly-fishing on the Madison River. Below: Ride the Charlie Russell Chew-Choo to see the wide-open spaces that inspired his famous, western art. Top left: See wildlife up close at the Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center in West Yellowstone. Bottom left: Enjoy top-of-the-world views in the Beartooth Mountains.



Road. Take a ranger-led tour to see the park's namesake glaciers. Raft or fish untamed waters. And, chow down on a hearty steak supper or sleep in a restored railroad car.

GO WILD Pre-register for a wildlife photography workshop at **Kalispell's Triple "D" Game Farm**, a safe place to capture images of wolves, grizzly bears, mountain lions, and other native Montana animals. Or, hike in **Lone Pine State Park** for far-as-the-eye-can-see views of **Kalispell**, the **Flathead River** and **Flathead Lake**, and the **Swan Mountain** range. **Eat & Stay:** **Western Barbecue Dinner Ride at Artemis Acres Paint Horse Guest Ranch** and **Kalispell Grand Hotel**, Kalispell.

TAKE A HIKE There's so much to see in **Glacier National Park** that you'll need to spend at least two days there. Begin by hiking the **Highline Trail** (for alpine views and possible wildlife sightings) or the **Iceberg Lake Trail**, which leads to a teal-blue lake holding small icebergs most of the summer. **Eat & Stay:** **Base Camp Café**, Columbia Falls, and **Belton Chalet**, West Glacier.

CROWN OF THE CONTINENT On your second Glacier day, drive the epic **Going-to-the-Sun Road** (partially closed mid-September through early June) through the heart of the park and over 6,646-foot Logan Pass. **Eat & Stay:** **St. Mary Lodge** and **Snowgoose Grille**, St. Mary.

OFF THE BEATEN PATH On the eastern side of the park, take a detour to **Browning** and the **Museum of the Plains Indian**. Watch Native American artists demonstrate authentic crafts, including weaving with porcupine quills. **Eat & Stay:** **Johnson's of St. Mary** (mid-May through September), St. Mary, and **Izzak Walton Inn** (railroad car room), Essex.

SEE & SKI **Whitefish Mountain Resort** is an all-season destination for adventure. Ride

the lifts to the summit in winter to ski and year round for views of **Glacier National Park**, the **Flathead Valley**, the **Canadian Rockies**, and more. **Eat & Stay:** **Loula's** and **The Lodge at Whitefish Lake**, Whitefish.

5. From Flathead to Philipsburg

The Route: Missoula > U.S. 93 > MT-35 to Bigfork > MT-83 > MT-200 > MT-141 > MT-271 > Frontage Road East > E Frontw Street through Drummond > MT-1 through Philipsburg to Porters Corner > MT-38 through Skalkaho Pass > U.S. 93 to Missoula

Total Distance: approximately 380 miles

Gateway Airport: Missoula International Airport, Missoula

THIS FOUR-DAY DRIVE is packed with adventure. Learn to river surf and fly-fish. See wild buffalo roam and mine for genuine Montana sapphires. And, if you dare, take the steep and winding portion of MT-38 over 7,257-foot Skalkaho Pass.

PEDAL POWER Slow down to enjoy the scenery in **Missoula**, a gold-level Bicycle Friendly Community. Rent a bike and ride the **Riverfront Trail** to the hand-carved **Carousel for Missoula**. Pedal around the **University of Montana** campus or along the **Missoula Microbrew Tour** trail. Park the bike long enough to hike the **M**, the city's signature hiking trail, and go surfing Montana-style at **Brennan's Wave**, a man-made white-water venue on the **Clark Fork River**. **Eat & Stay:** **Biga Pizza** and **Gibson Mansion Bed and Breakfast**, Missoula.

WILDLIFE WATCH Spend the morning at the **National Bison Range** in Moiese. Bring binoculars to look for bison, bighorn sheep, elk, deer, and black bears. From the range visitor's center, it's about ten miles to Charlo and the **Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuge**. Drive the back roads to see the kettle ponds where waterfowl—including tundra swans, white pelicans, and Canada geese—congre-

gate. While in Charlo, go horseback riding (reservations required) at **Cheff Guest Ranch**. **Eat & Stay:** **The Raven and Mountain Lake Lodge**, Bigfork.

LAKE LIFE Plan ahead to play in, on, or around a lake. **Base Camp Bigfork** offers all-season **Flathead Lake** activities including summer stand-up paddleboarding (SUP), kayak rentals, and winter **Dogsled Adventures**. In **Seeley Lake**, rent a **Wave-Runner**, boat, or bike in summer and a snowmobile, snowshoes, or cross-country skis in winter. Save time to mine for Montana sapphires in Philipsburg. **Eat & Stay:** **Lindley's Prime Steak House**, Seeley Lake, and **Ranch at Rock Creek**, Philipsburg.

PASS OR PLAY Choose your route back to Missoula. The best views are from **Skalkaho Pass**, however, getting there requires driving 54 miles of the narrow **Skalkaho Road** portion of MT-38. The dirt-and-gravel route is closed in winter. An easier option is backtracking to U.S. 90 near **Drummond**. In Missoula, take a serene, scenic float trip; wild, white-water rafting excursion; or exhilarating river boarding ride. **Eat & Stay:** **Running Horse Inn and Bed and Breakfast** in Huson and the **Red Bird**, Missoula.

6. Main Street Adventures

The Route: Great Falls > U.S. 87 > U.S. 89 to White Sulphur Springs > U.S. 89 > U.S. 12 to Townsend > backtrack to MT-284 to Helena > I-15 > U.S. 287 > U.S. 89 to Bynum > U.S. 89 to Great Falls

Total Distance: approximately 380 miles **Gateway Airport:** Great Falls International, Great Falls

THIS FIVE-DAY loop through central and southwest Montana travels in and on the edge of the Rockies. Celebrate Western art, explore state parks and the state capital, soak in hot springs, and take a magical boat ride down the Missouri River.

Left to right: Explore the Bannack State Park ghost town. Munch a burger at Square Butte Country Club Bar & Café. Bike in Gallatin National Forest.





Unwind on a lakeside deck at the historic Many Glacier Hotel, the largest lodge in Glacier National Park.

ECLECTIC COWBOY Begin in Great Falls, home to the **C.M. Russell Museum**, a tribute to legendary Western artist Charlie Russell. Before leaving town, see mermaids swimming at the **Sip 'n Dip Lounge**. In **Ulm**, visit the **First Peoples Buffalo Jump**, a sandstone cliff with nearly 18 feet of compacted bison remains below. **Eat & Stay:** **Celtic Cowboy Pub and Restaurant** and **Hotel Arvon**, Great Falls.

MOUNTAIN MAJESTY Southeast of Great Falls, hop on the **Kings Hill Scenic Byway**. The 71-mile drive crosses the highest pass in Montana that's open all year and runs through the **Lewis and Clark National Forest**. See the **Big Belt Mountains** to the west and the **Castle Mountains** to the east, and stop to hike the easy **Memorial Falls Trail**. **Eat & Stay:** **Branding Iron Café and Spa** and **Hot Springs Motel**, White Sulphur Springs.

TINY TOWN Detour to **Martinsdale** (population 92), about 72 miles round-trip from **White Sulphur Springs**. Tour the **Bair Museum** here to see **Edward Curtis** photographs, and original **Charlie Russell** and

Joseph Henry Sharp paintings, among other items. Buy an original glass piece at **Goose Bay Handblown Glass** in Townsend. **Eat & Stay:** **Highlander Bar and Grill**, Canyon Ferry, and **Hellgate Campground and Group Use Shelter Area**, located east of Helena on the banks of the **Canyon Ferry Reservoir**, between the Big Belt and Elkhorn mountains.

HIKE & BIKE Spend the day exploring the state capital, **Helena**, on foot or by bike. The city is known for its network of classic single-track mountain biking trails and its self-guided walking tours. Or, use your phone or rent a gps to see the sights on one of Helena's 38 geocaching tours. **Eat & Stay:** **Lucca's** and **Sanders B and B**, Helena.

OPTICAL ILLUSION Book a two-hour boat tour down the Missouri through the **Gates of the Mountains**. The route appears to be blocked by 1,200-foot-tall cliffs. Only those making the journey can see the "gates" magically open up to reveal a path down the river. **Eat & Stay:** **Log Cabin**, Choteau, and **Missouri River Ranch**, Craig.

7. On the Loose in Big Sky

The Route: Bozeman > U.S. 191 > West Yellowstone > U.S. 191 > Bozeman **Total Distance:** approximately 180 miles **Gateway Airport:** Bozeman Yellowstone International, Bozeman

IT'S POSSIBLE to make this drive from Bozeman to Yellowstone National Park and back in only a day. But, why would you want to? Take it slow. Set aside six days to savor the incredible scenery and play—in the snow in winter and on the hiking and biking trails the rest of the year.

ON THE ROCKS Begin in Bozeman, the adventure capital of the Northern Rockies. In winter, learn to ice climb in **Hyalite Canyon** or hit the slopes at the laid-back **Bridger Bowl**. No snow? No problem. Take a guided outdoor rock-climbing trip with **Spire Climbing Center**. **Eat & Stay:** **Nova Café** and **The Lark**, Bozeman.



Above: Find the perfect line from the top of Lone Peak at Big Sky Resort. Below left: Try a lemon blueberry tart and a cup of Basque coffee at Kafe Utza in Miles City. Below right: Experience American Indian culture and traditions at the annual Crow Fair Celebration.



DIG IN Spend the morning viewing the amazing array of paleontology exhibits in the **Seibel Dinosaur Complex**, located at **Bozeman's Museum of the Rockies**. Gear up for the adventures ahead at **Schnee's**, makers of handcrafted, rubber sole pac boots designed to handle any Montana weather. **Eat & Stay:** **Montana Ale Works** and **The Lark**, Bozeman.

BIG FUN Drive south to **Big Sky Resort**, an all-season playground with four mountains. If there's snow, ski, snowboard, sled, snowshoe, or skate. In warmer weather, go ziplining, hike **Lone Mountain**, jump on the bungee trampoline, or scale the climbing wall. **Eat & Stay:** **Buck's T-4** and **Huntley Lodge**, Big Sky.

YELLOWSTONE Make **West Yellowstone** your base for any adventure in and around **Yellowstone National Park**. See wildlife at the **Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center**. Hike and bike. Go fly-fishing in a blue-ribbon trout stream. Mid-December through mid-March take a snow coach to the **Old Faithful** area. **Eat & Stay:** **Madison Crossing Lounge** and **Three Bear Lodge**, West Yellowstone.

PLAY DAY Spend another day in **West Yellowstone** or the National Park. Or, head back to **Big Sky Resort** to try activities—including dog sledding in winter and the high ropes course in summer—that you couldn't fit in earlier. **Eat & Stay:** **Woodside Bakery**, West Yellowstone, and **Lone Mountain Ranch**, Big Sky.

SHOP & SKATE Back in Bozeman, browse the historic downtown shops and shop for original pieces at the **Emerson Center for the Arts and Culture**. From Christmas Day through the end of February, rent skates and glide across the ice at one of the city's free outdoor rinks. **Eat & Stay:** **The Western Café** and **Element**, Bozeman.

8. Bighorn and Beyond

The Route: Billings > I-94 to Miles City > backtrack west on I-94 to exit 72 >

MT-384 to Hardin > I-90 to Crow Agency > Crow St. Xavier Road > MT-313 > Pryor St. Xavier cut-across to Pryor > MT-418 > MT-416 to Billings

Total Distance: approximately 400 miles

Gateway Airport: Billings Logan International, Billings

LEARN MORE about Montana's rich Native American heritage and cowboy culture on this four-day drive through Little Bighorn Country. The history-packed route crosses Indian nations, the state's biggest

city, and the path taken by the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery expedition.

PICTOGRAPHS & PILLARS From Billings, head south to **Pictograph Cave State Park**, home to over a hundred rock paintings and artifacts left by prehistoric hunters. Forge on to **Pompeys Pillar National Monument**, a rock formation rising 150 feet above the **Yellowstone River**. Look for the spot where **William Clark** (of Lewis and Clark fame) carved his name and date into the pillar. **Eat & Stay:** **The Burger Dive** and the **Northern Hotel**, Billings.

BRONCS & BADLANDS The next destination is Miles City, best known for its annual **Bucking Horse Sale** weekend each May. Learn about the town's Old West roots at the **Range Riders Museum** before sampling the latest vintages at **Tongue River Winery**. Detour east to the town of Terry to shop for "made in Montana" goods at **Prairie Unique**. If you're driving a high-clearance vehicle, explore the **Terry Badlands Wilderness Study Area**. **Eat & Stay:** **Montana Bar and Steakhouse** and **The Horton House B and B**, Miles City.

SACRED GROUND In Crow Agency, **Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument** preserves the memory of the Native American warriors and U.S. Cavalry soldiers (led by George Custer) lost in the epic conflict here in 1876. See the site with **Apsaalooke Tours**, which employs mostly Crow Indians as guides. The one-hour tour includes stops at **Reno-Benteen Battlefield** (where the Battle of Little Bighorn began) and **Last Stand Hill**. **Eat & Stay:** **Lariat Country Kitchen**, Hardin, and **7th Ranch RV Camp and Historical Tours**, Garryowen.

GRANDEST CANYON On the way back to Billings, detour south to the **Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area**, aptly billed as "the grandest canyon in the Northern Rockies." Spend the morning hiking, fishing, boating, or watching for wildlife—including bighorn sheep and mule deer—before heading back to the road trip route. Outside of Pryor, visit **Chief Plenty Coups State Park**, one of only three U.S. state parks located on a Native American reservation. **Eat & Stay:** **Lilac and Dude Rancher Lodge**, Billings.

EXPLORE MORE ONLINE Get additional road trip information—including interactive maps, special events, and more must-see stops—at nationalgeographic.com/montana/roadtrips

PLANNING YOUR TRIP

If you aren't already driving to Montana, rental vehicles are available once you arrive. For those adventures on back roads and gravel, a four-wheel-drive vehicle is recommended. Direct flights are available from several U.S. cities and Amtrak's **Empire Builder** (www.amtrak.com) runs between Chicago and Seattle, through the northern half of the state. For a list of airports and carriers, go to visitmt.com/airports

TRAVEL RESOURCES

Visit www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/ to download MDT's Travel Info mobile app.

WEATHER REPORTS

Western Montana 406.721.3939

Central Montana 406.453.5469

Northeast Montana 406.228.9625

Southeast Montana 406.652.1916

24-HOUR ROAD CONDITIONS

Available statewide 511

www.mdt511.com

Statewide emergency phone service 911
Visit www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/ to download MDT's Travel Info mobile app.

LEARN MORE

VISITMT.COM/TRAVELER_RESOURCES

NATIONAL PARKS

Glacier National Park
406.888.7800

Yellowstone National Park
307.344.7381

SOCIAL MEDIA

FACEBOOK

There's no love button, so you'll have to settle for "liking" Montana.
www.facebook.com/visitmontana

TWITTER

While we're usually distracted by another kind of twitter (bird watching, anyone?) we keep our virtual tidbits updated, too.
www.twitter.com/visitmontana

INSTAGRAM

Follow us on Instagram for a constant stream of photos guaranteed to make you pine for your next Montana trip.
www.instagram.com/visitmontana

TUMBLR

Share your favorite #MontanaMoment to inspire others or browse the photo gallery to kick off your next adventure.
www.montanamoment.tumblr.com

ONLINE RESOURCES

An encyclopedic, user-friendly resource for trip ideas and general wanderlust. Here, you'll find a wealth of varied information—motorcycle route ideas, a compilation of powwows, craft breweries, wineries, ghost town rundowns and just about anything else you can think of.

VISITMT.COM



It's time.

Absaroka Mountains outside of Livingston, MT

| VISITMT.COM |

MONTANA

SAVE ANIMALS SAVE OCEANS (AND SAVE MONEY TOO)

SEE BELOW FOR DETAILS.

INTRODUCING THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VISA® CARD

Card benefits include:

Save 20% on National Geographic catalog and
online store purchases

\$ 50 credit towards a National Geographic
Expeditions or Adventures trip

Learn more at ngm.com/visa



Cards are issued by First Bankcard®, a division of First National Bank of Omaha, pursuant to a license from Visa U.S.A., Inc. VISA and VISA SIGNATURE are registered trademarks of Visa International Service Association and are used under license.

© 2016 National Geographic Partners. NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC and Yellow Border Design are trademarks of the National Geographic Society and are used under license. All rights reserved.



I N T O

53 Water-Inspired Trips

T H E

That Make a Splash

B L U E





Orlando

Water is one of the main reasons we travel. Even Orlando, 55 miles from the closest Florida beach, has lots of ways to get wet: lazy rivers, water slides, hot tubs, swim-up bars—and wave pools. Sure, the Mouse is king, but we're betting water helped draw some of Orlando's record-breaking 62 million visitors in 2014.

PHOTOGRAPH BY
ALEX S. MACLEAN



GO WITH

What water-centric trip suits you best? Find your number, then turn the page.



I'm looking more for adventure.

An urban adventure?

Yes

No

Up for a transatlantic flight?

Anytime

No time

**NO. 35
Chicago
PAGE 62**

How far will your frequent flier miles take you?

Middle East

Europe

**NO. 37
Dubai,
U.A.E.
PAGE 62**

Just as
cubes in
my drink

Favorite animal?

Penguins

Tigers

Reindeer

**NO. 36
Rome
PAGE 62**

**NO. 39
Antarctica
PAGE 62**

**NO. 40
Siberia
PAGE 62**

**NO. 41
Lapland
PAGE 62**



When are you traveling?

Winter

Summer

Whenever
I can get the
best shot

**NOS. 18-21
Spots for
underwater
photography
PAGE 53**

**Enjoy
ice sculpture?**

I watched
Frozen
half a dozen
times.

**Would you
sleep in
an ice
sculpture?**

That's what
subzero
sleeping bags
are for,
right?

**NO. 42
Jukkasjärvi,
Sweden
PAGE 62**

What do you prefer?

Salt water

Freshwater

Pool
water

**NOS. 2-6
Best
beaches
PAGE 48**

**NO. 28
Great
Lakes
PAGE 56**

**NO. 1
Orlando
PREVIOUS
PAGE**

I'm not
that
adventurous.

**NO. 43
Harbin,
China
PAGE 62**

Backyard
sprinkler

**NO. 53
Your local
swimming
hole
PAGE 64**

Water
projects

**NOS. 13-17
Places to
volunteer
PAGE 52**



THE FLOW



ILLUSTRATIONS BY HANNA BARCZYK

I'm looking more for relaxation.

Do you get seasick?

I'm turning green just thinking about it.

Nothing some ginger pills can't cure.

Call me Ishmael.

NO. 29
Ocean cruise
PAGE 58

NOS. 7-11
River cruise
PAGE 49

How do you feel about islands?

Yes, please!

Meh

So where's your happy place?

Wherever my taste buds are happy

The wilder, the better

Spa towns

Is your passport up to date?

What passport?

Waiting for my next stamp. Get me to the Greeks!

NOS. 30-34
Places for artisanal salt
PAGE 60

What dazzles you?

Bling

Butterflies

Porterhouse

What's for dinner?

Pâté

Pasta

NO. 44
Thousand Islands
PAGE 62

What are you Instagramming?

My meal

"Abstract Patterns #10"

Insta-what?

Rainbows

Auroras



NOS. 22-27
Best waterfalls
PAGE 54

NO. 12
Blue Lagoon
PAGE 50

NO. 49
Saratoga, New York
PAGE 62

What's in the glass?

NO. 52
San Pellegrino, Italy
PAGE 62

Sparkling

Still

NO. 50
Vergèze, France
PAGE 62

NO. 51
Évian, France
PAGE 62



Pristine Shores

2 GREEK CYCLADES The Cycladic archipelago strings together a necklace of pebble-beach islands, such as storied Naxos and Paros. Enric Sala, leader of the Pristine Seas project, calls the island of Amorgos, with its crystalline coves ideal for diving and snorkeling, “the essence of the Mediterranean.”



Shells frame a sunset view from Agia Anna beach on Naxos, Greece.

3

Patara, Turkey

Thanks to a preservation order that prohibits development from encroaching on the nearby Roman ruins, the 12-mile stretch of sand at Patara on southwestern Turkey’s “Turquoise Coast”—one of the longest beaches on the Mediterranean—is blissfully unspoiled.

4

Anakena, Easter Island

Legend has it that Hotu Matu’a, the Polynesian chief who first settled Rapa Nui (Easter Island), landed on Anakena, a rare stretch of beach that interrupts the island’s mostly rocky shoreline. Today, carved moai keep a watchful eye on beachgoers and swimmers.

5

Loango National Park, Gabon

With sightings of humpback whales, elephants, and western lowland gorillas commonplace, the 60-mile coastline that fringes Gabon’s Loango National Park is “the wildest beach on the planet,” says Pristine Seas’ Enric Sala. Swimmers beware: Hippos have been known to bodysurf here.

6

Plage de Saleccia, Corsica

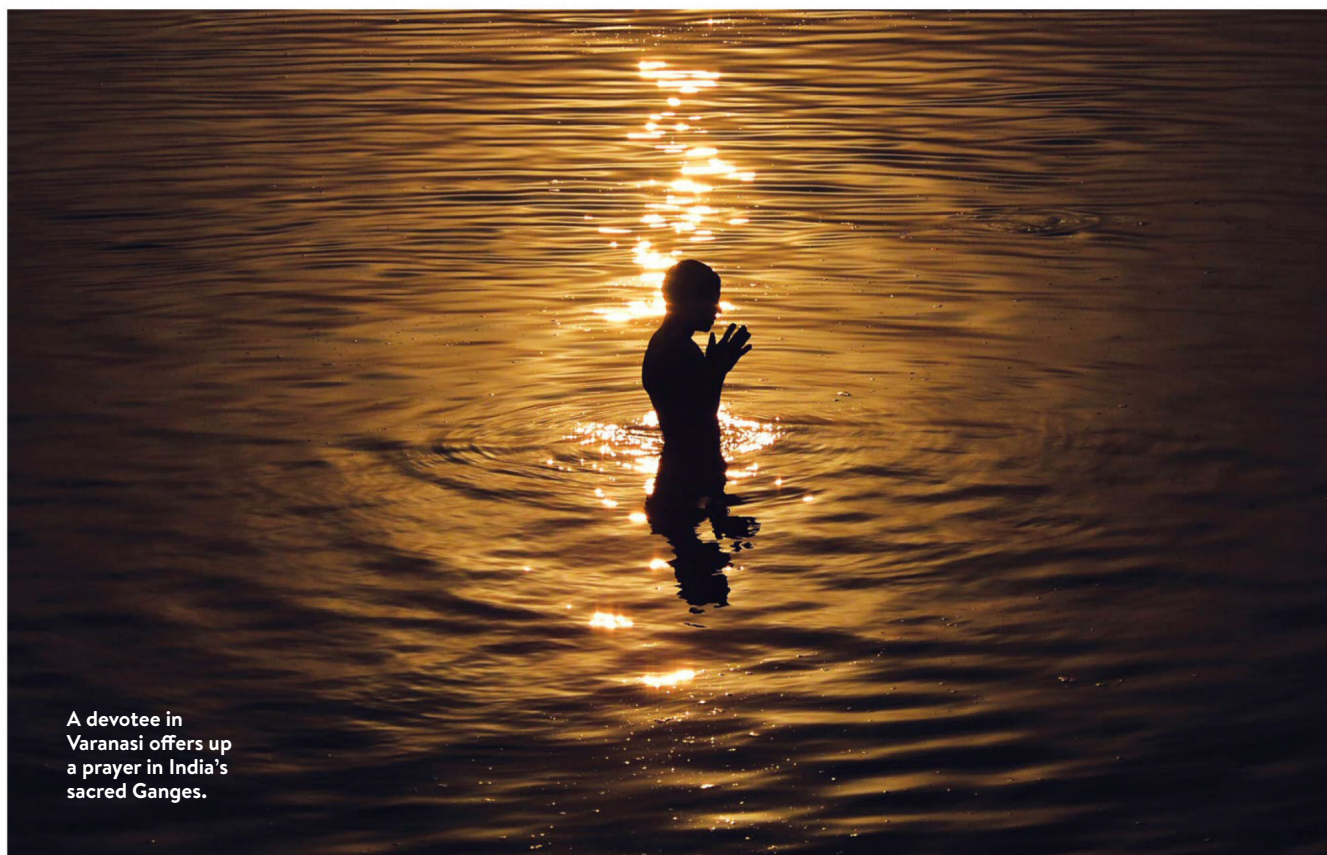
One of the handful of beaches that skirt northwest Corsica’s protected scrubland, Désert des Agriates, Plage de Saleccia can be reached by boat or rugged hike through the fragrant maquis. Your reward: a half mile of soft white sand, sloping gently into the Med, all to yourself—well, almost.

MARJA SCHWARTZ



River Cruises Rising

7 GANGES Descending from the Himalaya, India's sacred river embraces a head-spinning variety of life on its way to the Bay of Bengal. River cruisers can encounter sadhus on the ghats of the holy city of Varanasi and go on an excursion to Kolkata. A dip in Ganges waters is said to wash away all sins.



A devotee in Varanasi offers up a prayer in India's sacred Ganges.

8

Mekong

The longest river in Southeast Asia glides through Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam. Cruise itineraries vary depending on seasonal water levels (generally higher in fall and winter), but typically include Cambodia's buzzing capital city of Phnom Penh.

9

Amazon

From its source in Peru, the world's largest river system by volume sprawls across six South American countries before emptying into the Atlantic. Indigenous peoples navigate this watery lifeline, and colorful wild animals compete for visitors' attention.

10

Columbia

The dramatic Columbia River Gorge is the highlight of the largest river in the Pacific Northwest. Cruises feature Lewis and Clark history; the progressive city of Portland, Oregon; historic Fort Clatsop; and natural wonders such as Multnomah Falls.

11

Elbe

In the Saxony region of eastern Germany, the Elbe flows past the baroque towns of Dresden and Meissen. The Elbe town of Wittenberg in 2017 will mark 500 years since Martin Luther nailed his "95 Theses" to the door of All Saints Church, sparking the Protestant Reformation.

A woman with short, wavy brown hair is shown from the chest up, floating in a body of water. She is wearing a light blue one-piece swimsuit with a black bow at the collar. She holds a black tray with several clear plastic cups filled with a light blue liquid. The water is a deep blue, and in the background, other people are visible swimming, and a large, dark, rocky island rises from the water under a cloudy sky.

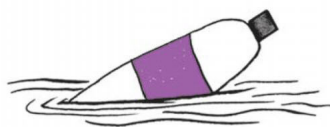
12

Blue Lagoon, Iceland

On the longest day of the year, Iceland's famed geothermal spa stays open until midnight, with music playing and waitresses serving drinks while visitors soak in the 98–104° F waters. In winter the lagoon becomes a prime spot for aurora-watching.

PHOTOGRAPH BY AGNIESZKA RAYSS/
ANZENBERGER/REDUX





Keeping It Clean

13

CHESAPEAKE BAY The health of the bay is directly related to its native oyster population, estimated to be as low as 1 percent of historic levels. Help transplant or build reefs for baby bivalves at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Maryland Oyster Restoration Center, in Shady Side, Maryland.



A skipjack, built to harvest oysters, sails the Chesapeake Bay.

14

Bolivia

Water for People works to bring sustainable solutions for safe water and sanitation in nine countries. This March, join a tour visiting project sites in the villages of Khuchumuela and San Pedro, where the nonprofit has reached its goal of providing water in every household.

15

Cambodia

Dig a latrine and teach hygiene alongside locals in rural Cambodia with the nonprofit Wine to Water. Operating in more than 24 countries, the group provides clean water and improved sanitation through the sale of five wine varietals from California's Brutocao Vineyards.

16

Hudson Valley, New York

Spend a week aboard the wooden sloop *Clearwater* or the schooner *Mystic Whaler* to help with the sailing while teaching children about the ecosystem of the Hudson River and its tributaries. Folksinger Pete Seeger founded the *Clearwater* nonprofit in the 1960s to address pollution.

17

Planet Earth

An easy way to get involved in water sustainability is to avoid buying plastic bottles of water while on the road. A campaign by Travelers Against Plastic encourages people to carry a reusable container and treat their drinking water, instead of using disposable bottles.



Picture Perfect

18

JUPITER TO BOYNTON BEACH, FLORIDA “Imagine a hundred goliath groupers the size of Mini Coopers clustered about a shipwreck,” says photographer David Doubilet. In South Florida, one of Doubilet’s top places for underwater photography, divers can get close to these endangered fish.



A goliath grouper skims a shipwreck off West Palm Beach, Florida.

19

Raja Ampat, Indonesia

Dubbed the Amazon of the oceans, this archipelago off the coast of West Papua is “the heart of marine biodiversity,” says photographer Doubilet. “Raja Ampat is underexplored and laden with life. The currents can rise like a wind, bearing nutrients that feed this ocean wilderness.”

20

Gardens of the Queen, Cuba

“This time capsule of a national park represents what the Caribbean was 50 years ago,” says Doubilet. The protected 1,000-square-mile stretch off Cuba’s southeast coast teems with sharks, large reef fish oblivious to divers, and crocodiles that patrol at the edge of dense mangroves.

21

Magdalen Island, Quebec

“My partner, Jennifer Hayes, and I name this our favorite place on the planet,” says Doubilet. “There is nothing else like it on Earth. We work on and below the ice with harp seal mothers and pups. The sounds of the pups crying for their mothers waft through our ship’s hull at night into our dreams.”

TIPS: When photographing underwater, work within about ten feet of your subject. The deeper you go, the less light you’ll have and the more important flash becomes. Flash will bring out all the colors in the fish and reef. It will also allow you to “freeze” or convey the movement of a subject.



Victoria Falls, in southern Africa, spans about a mile and drops a distance about twice the height of Niagara.



Top Waterfalls

22 **VICTORIA FALLS** may not be the widest or tallest waterfall in the world, but it is without doubt the most impressive. Not only can you see it, you can hear it (from about a mile away), feel it, smell it, and taste it. Locals call it Mosi-oa-Tunya, or “the smoke that thunders.”

WHERE IS VICTORIA FALLS?

The waterfall straddles the border between Zimbabwe and Zambia. You can access it from either country.

Zimbabwe has historically been the more popular entry point, but its political turmoil and hyperinflation in the 2000s made Zambia preferable.

Today, although Zimbabwe’s long-time and autocratic president, Robert Mugabe, remains in place, the nation’s currency has stabilized, and the safari industry is resurgent.

TIP: At the Zimbabwe airport, make sure you obtain the UniVisa (currently \$50 for nationals from many countries), which serves as a multicountry pass to enter Zambia and Botswana.

HOW DO I GET THERE?

There are national park entrances on both sides of the falls, easily accessible from the towns of Livingstone, in Zambia, and Victoria Falls, in Zimbabwe.

If you’ve booked through a safari operator, your guide will simply drive you to the entrance. The per-person fee is \$20 on the Zambia side and \$30 on the Zimbabwe side.

WHICH SIDE IS BETTER?

Put very briefly: To see the falls, go to Zimbabwe; to feel the falls, go to Zambia. But we recommend seeing it from both sides, and here’s why:

The Zambia side at high flow

(February to June) is an exhilaratingly visceral experience. Visitors walking on this side of the narrow gorge can feel the spray.

The Zimbabwe side tends to offer the more picturesque views because the vantages are farther, offering perspective. If you go in the height of the dry season, say, in November, the water volume is at a low point and the falls can feel a little underwhelming.

CAN I DO BOTH SIDES IN A DAY?

Yes! In fact, it’s possible to do both sides in a couple of hours. Make sure you have a multiple-country visa in your passport. You can also just stand on the bridge between the two countries and gaze at the world’s most famous cataract.

I’VE SEEN PHOTOS OF PEOPLE STANDING AT THE EDGE OF THE FALLS. HOW DO I DO THAT, AND IS IT DANGEROUS?

Devil’s Pool is an experience you can have only on the Zambia side and only during the dry season (late August to late December). It involves a boat ride on the Zambezi River to Livingstone Island, from which you can swim in this natural pool at the falls’ edge. Breathe easy: An unseen lip prevents you from going over. Run by a reputable tour operator, Devil’s Pool isn’t a dangerous activity if you follow directions. Avoid unofficial natural pools; people have gone over the edge.

23

Niagara, U.S. and Canada

Known for a dramatic combination of volume and height, the three cataracts that make up Niagara Falls straddle the border between New York and Ontario, Canada.

24

Ban Gioc, Vietnam and China

Set in the karst hills and spanning the border between Vietnam and China, Ban Gioc–Detian Falls become one when the Quay Son River swells with summer rains.

25

Angel Falls, Venezuela

Plunging more than 3,200 feet, Venezuela’s Angel Falls is the world’s highest waterfall.

26

Gullfoss, Iceland

Fed by the Langjökull glacier, Gullfoss, in southwest Iceland, streams into a steep canyon, creating a rainbow on sunny days.

27

Large Waterfall, Plitvice Lakes, Croatia

Plitvice Lakes, Croatia’s largest national park, is a series of cascading lakes linked by waterfalls and natural dams.

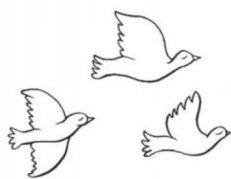
Great Lakes

The largest chain of freshwater lakes on the planet, the Great Lakes offer numerous experiences in and around the water, from surfing to shipwreck diving. Here, South African kayaker Steve Fisher paddles downstream on the Black River, which flows into Lake Superior.

PHOTOGRAPH BY LUCAS GILMAN







Ocean Cruise Q&A

29 **THE CRUISE INDUSTRY** carried more than 23 million passengers in 2015, and nine new oceangoing ships will debut this year. But if you're among the millions of Americans who have never cruised, here's a primer on what's happening on the high seas.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE CRUISE INDUSTRY?

Ships from mainstream lines continue to break size barriers as they compete against megaresorts on terra firma, with giant slides, skydiving simulators, and cooking classes. If you enjoy Orlando's Disney World or Nassau's Atlantis resort, megaliners such as the 5,479-passenger *Harmony of the Seas*—launching in May—can dazzle. Increasingly, major lines enlist outside brands to sell their experience: Royal Caribbean offers Starbucks,

Carnival offers Guy Fieri burgers, and Norwegian lures with Broadway shows like *Legally Blonde*.

But size isn't everything. There also is action on the boutique and luxury side, most notably with the arrival of Viking Ocean Cruises last year. "Viking already has 50 percent of the river cruise business, and now they're really shaking things up with their oceangoing line," explains Gene Sloan, travel and cruise editor for *USA Today*. "They're catering to an underserved niche with more intimate smaller ships. Viking is more upscale than the big mass-market lines, yet not as expensive as the superluxury lines." Virgin Cruises, due to launch in 2020,

may prove to be another game changer.

The industry also is capitalizing on the solo cruiser market. Cunard, Norwegian, Royal Caribbean, and Holland America are building (or adapting existing) ships with a few smaller cabins for single occupancy.

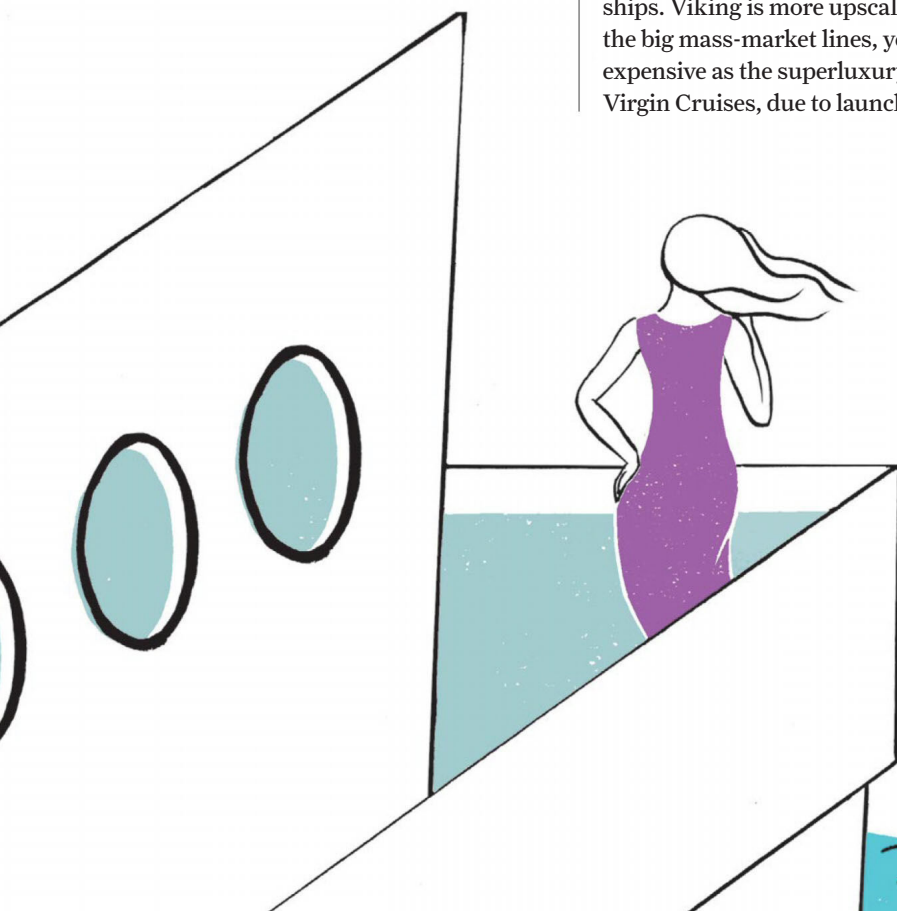
I THINK I'M PRONE TO SEASICKNESS.

ARE CRUISES A BAD IDEA?

Most modern ships are well stabilized, but if you're concerned, such over-the-counter meds as Dramamine are remedies for mild cases, while Transderm Scop, a prescription patch, is another solution. Book a cabin closer to the middle of the ship, where rocking and rolling will be less pronounced. Also, consider cruising the calmer waters of Alaska's Inside Passage or the fjords of Norway. The Caribbean is more placid outside of hurricane season; during those months, captains can steer clear of major weather systems.

IS A BALCONY WORTH SPRINGING FOR?

Almost everyone covets a private veranda. Such demand means balcony cabins cost considerably more than an identical "ocean view" cabin with a window. But note that verandas are shrinking: The newer ships from





Princess and Norwegian have balconies that are less than four feet deep. If you're headed on an itinerary where port days will be long and intensive, you'll have little time to spend on the balcony. If cost is a concern, decide whether your cruise is about the destination or the seagoing experience.

"Inside" cabins are also evolving. A new option on several Royal Caribbean ships is "virtual balconies"—a floor-to-ceiling, high-definition screen (instead of a window) that displays real-time views of the sea. Inside cabins aboard Disney's *Dream* and *Fantasy* feature faux portholes offering virtual sightings of animated Disney characters.

ARE CRUISES ALL-INCLUSIVE?

Most amenities that were included in a cruise fare a few decades ago are still there, but opportunities for spending money have multiplied. Tipping—once optional—is now mandatory, with per-person, per-day costs of \$12 or more often added to the checkout bill, plus service charges of 15 to 18 percent for all drink orders.

With most mass-market cruise lines, anticipate add-ons for Internet, drinks, upgraded coffee, and such specialized exercise classes as spinning. Some ships boast a dozen or more dining options, but most will incur a surcharge of \$20, \$40, or more. Carnival and Norwegian rocked the boat last year when they began charging for room service meals—long a standard of cruising. Several lines have designated some outdoor deck

areas as fee-added options, meaning we now pay for elbow room.

"On the low end, there's definitely more nickel-and-diming in recent years," says Sloan. "And the gratuity charges have really gotten out of control." High-end cruises waive most or all of these add-ons, though fares can easily top \$500 per person per day.

Yet if you avoid the add-ons, cruising can be an excellent value, especially for families. If you're not too fussy with dates or itinerary, and book close to the time of departure, it's possible to find an ocean-view cabin in summer on a Mediterranean cruise for not much more than \$100 per night per person, including meals and entertainment. And how many resorts in the Med can compete with that in high season?

WHAT NEW GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS ARE CRUISE LINES EXPLORING?

Cruises to Asia, Australia, and New Zealand are on the rise. Ships also are venturing north of the Arctic Circle; the *National Geographic Explorer* offers the "Epic 80°N" cruise to Baffin and Ellesmere Islands, and Greenland. Multicontinent cruises also have become popular, often selling out many months in advance. For sheer value, though, such tried-and-true regions as the Caribbean, Europe, and Alaska may prove the best bet for the best deals. More exotic cruise itineraries tend to draw experienced passengers who are willing to pay a premium to enjoy new vistas and experiences.

49

Average age of cruise passenger

36

Percentage of worldwide cruises in the Caribbean

1

Percentage of passengers who have "found love" on cruise ships

1 in 5

Number of Americans who have taken a cruise

\$2,000

Additional cost of living on a cruise ship over a 20-year period compared with an assisted-living facility

225,282

Weight in tons of the largest cruise ship, Royal Caribbean's *Allure of the Seas*—to be eclipsed later this year by its sister ship, *Harmony of the Seas*

57

Gallons of extra virgin olive oil used on a seven-day MSC cruise



Taste the Sea



On Oregon's Netarts Bay (left), Jacobsen Salt is produced by hand during a multiday process.

30 **NETARTS BAY, OREGON** In Tillamook County, Jacobsen Salt started harvesting in the bay's cold waters in 2011, one of a small number of U.S. artisanal salt producers that are elevating the common condiment to foodie status. Just as a great wine captures unique terroir, handcrafted salt distills the distinct characteristics of local waters. Fans of Jacobsen Salt cite its especially fine texture and pure taste. Visitors can check out the labor-intensive process at Jacobsen's saltworks or attend tasting events and pick up boxes or jars of kosher and seasoned salts at its retail store in Portland.

31

Marblehead, Massachusetts

Marblehead Salt's acclaimed kosher variety is produced using an age-old technique. The company donates 100 percent of its net profits to charities.

32

Malden, West Virginia

Seventh-generation saltmaker J. Q. Dickinson harvests its salt in the Kanawha Valley, from an ancient ocean underneath the mountains of Appalachia.

33

Sitka, Alaska

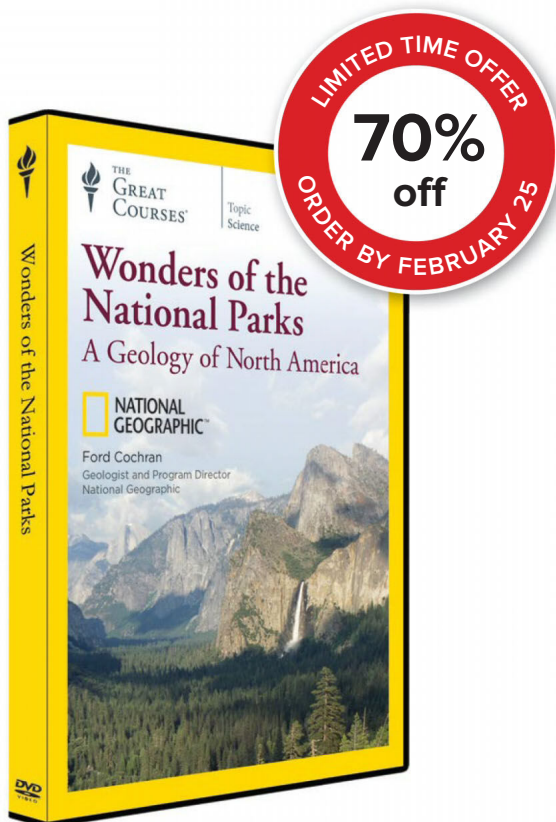
Crafted here since 2005, Alaska Pure Sea Salt is known for its delicate flake. Taste it at Pacific Northwest restaurants such as Lark, in Seattle.

34

Marshfield, Maine

Founded in 1998, Maine Sea Salt from Buck's Harbor is sold throughout the U.S. Free tours of the saltworks take place April through October.

SUSAN SEUBERT (BOTH PHOTOS)



Explore the Natural Wonder of Our National Parks

Drawing millions of tourists each year, our national parks capture a special place in our hearts—and in the history of how the planet came to be the shape it is now. Most visitors get only a superficial view of these sites. For anyone who loves history, geology, and nature, that is barely the tip of the mile-high glacier.

No one knows the national parks better than National Geographic, and we are proud to join forces with this extraordinary institution to present **Wonders of the National Parks: A Geology of North America**, providing in-depth insights, intriguing perspectives, and riveting little-known facts about these magnificent locations. Beautifully illustrated, these 36 half-hour lectures take you to more than a hundred spectacular sites guided by geologist and former college professor Ford Cochran, who is currently the Director of Programming for National Geographic Expeditions. You'll finish this course with a deep appreciation for each of our national parks that you won't find by just driving through them.

Offer expires 02/25/16

THEGREATCOURSES.COM/4NGTR
1-800-832-2412

Wonders of the National Parks: A Geology of North America

Taught by Ford Cochran
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

LECTURE TITLES

1. Yellowstone: Microcosm of the National Parks
2. Yellowstone's Cataclysmic Origins and Future
3. Grand Teton and Jackson Hole
4. Hawaii Volcanoes: Earth's Largest Mountains
5. The Hawaiian Islands and Maui's Haleakala
6. Mount Saint Helens, Lassen Volcanic, Rainier
7. Crater Lake, Olympic, North Cascades
8. Volcanoes of Alaska: Katmai and Lake Clark
9. Alaska's Glacier Bay and Kenai Fjords
10. Yosemite: Nature's Cathedral
11. Redwoods, Sequoias, and the Sierra Nevada
12. Pinnacles to Joshua Tree: The San Andreas
13. Denali to Gates of the Arctic
14. Death Valley and Great Basin: The Rift Zone
15. Shenandoah: The Collision of Old Continents
16. Great Smoky Mountains and Hot Springs
17. National Rivers: Gorges, Falls, and Meanders
18. Great Dune Fields of North America
19. National Seashores and Lakeshores
20. Reefs: Virgin Islands, Florida, Texas
21. National Marine Sanctuaries and Monuments
22. Acadia's Highlands and Islands
23. The Dakota Badlands
24. The Grand Canyon's 2-Billion-Year Staircase
25. Carving the Grand Canyon
26. Petrified Forest and Other Fossil Parks
27. Bryce Canyon, Canyonlands, Arches
28. Zion, Gunnison's Black Canyon, Capitol Reef
29. Mesa Verde and Ancient Settlements
30. The Colorado Rocky Mountains
31. Montana's Glacier and the Canadian Rockies
32. Big Bend on the Rio Grande and Saguaro
33. Mammoth Cave, Wind Cave, Carlsbad Caverns
34. The Everglades and the Congaree Bottomland
35. Voyageurs, Isle Royale, the Canadian Shield
36. Assembling North America, Park by Park

Wonders of the National Parks:

A Geology of North America

Course no. 1707 | 36 lectures (30 minutes/lecture)

SAVE \$270

DVD ~~\$384.95~~ NOW \$114.95

+\$15 Shipping, Processing, and Lifetime Satisfaction Guarantee

Priority Code: 123220

For over 25 years, The Great Courses has brought the world's foremost educators to millions who want to go deeper into the subjects that matter most. No exams. No homework. Just a world of knowledge available anytime, anywhere. Download or stream to your laptop or PC, or use our free mobile apps for iPad, iPhone, or Android. Over 550 courses available at www.TheGreatCourses.com.



World of Water

35

Chicago

Sitting on the shores of Lake Michigan, the Windy City might as well be nicknamed Water City. A cruise along the Chicago River highlights the city's historic architecture, and in Millennium Park the playful Crown Fountain always draws crowds.

36

Rome

The Italian capital is home to one of the world's most famous fountains, the Trevi, completed in 1762. Since the Trevi's renovation last year, visitors can again toss in coins to ensure that, as the legend says, they'll someday return to Rome.

37

Dubai, U.A.E.

In a city known for excess, it's no surprise that next to the world's tallest building is the world's biggest dancing fountain, the Dubai Fountain, which is synchronized to lights and music.

38

Las Vegas

Being in Nevada's Mojave Desert doesn't stop Las Vegas from claiming a world-class water feature, the Bellagio fountains. The 22-million-gallon dazzler is fed not by municipal water but by a private well that once greened the Dunes Hotel golf course.



39

Antarctica

Travelers journeying to the chilly continent can kayak past imposing icebergs, snorkel in frigid waters, and walk among frolicsome penguins.

40

Siberia

Visit Zov Tigra National Park, in far eastern Russia, for a chance to spot endangered Siberian tigers, whose footprints are easier to track in snow. Ride the Trans-Siberian Railway for views of frosty landscapes from the comfort of a heated car.

41

Lapland, Norway

Reindeer sledding makes for an exhilarating way to explore Norway's landscape. Plus, nighttime riders may get a glimpse of the northern lights.

42

Jukkasjärvi, Sweden

In this Swedish town 124 miles north of the Arctic Circle, the famed Icehotel will soon be open year-round, thanks to a new solar-powered building design that keeps the ice from melting even in summer.

43

Harbin, China

When temperatures drop in northeast China, a theme park made entirely of ice pops up. The annual Harbin Ice Festival (January 5-February 25 this year) features towering castles and intricate ice sculptures, all colorfully lit at night.

44

Thousand Islands, N.Y.

With 1,800 islands, this region astride the U.S. and Canada border invites visitors to cruise between forested isles in classic tour boats.

45

Ontario

In fall turn your binoculars on the monarch butterflies that flock by the thousands to Point Pelee National Park, seeking the shortest route across Lake Erie.

46

Sifnos, Greece

This Cycladic island has built a reputation as a gourmet destination. At Manolis Restaurant typical dishes such as *mastello* (lamb with wine and dill) are slow-roasted in a wood-fired oven. Or try the baby calamari tempura at the Omega3 fish and wine bar.

47

Skyros, Greece

A Sporades isle of sandy bays and pine forests, Skyros is also recognized for its folk artists. Delicate embroideries, ceramics, and child-size carved chairs fill the whitewashed Manos Faltats Museum.

48

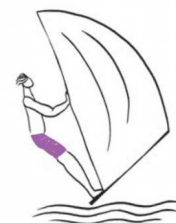
Astypalaia, Greece

Only one proper road traverses this rugged westernmost island in the Dodecanese group. Treacherous tracks lead to pebble beaches such as Vatses and Kaminakia, where the farm-to-table fare at Linda's restaurant includes goat stew.

49

Saratoga, N.Y.

This historic Hudson Valley spa town offers 18 mineral springs, each with its own distinct flavor. A soak in the caramel-colored waters at Roosevelt Baths can feel like floating in root beer.



50

Vergèze, France

Fizzy Perrier water sputters up from a single spring in this Provençal village. Louis Perrier bought the spring in 1898 with the intent to sell the water as a curative. Roam the museum and witness the parade of green bottles that are shipped daily to 140 countries.

51

Évian, France

Évian-les-Bains remains a traditional resort on the French side of Lake Geneva. With hints of Alpine glacial melt, Evian water flows from the original Cachat spring and is bottled nearby.

52

San Pellegrino, Italy

The Italian bubbly surfaces in its namesake town in the Bergamo Alps, an hour outside Milan. A day pass at the recently renovated QC Terme San Pellegrino spa lets you soak a dozen different ways.

THIS IS ADVENTURE



#ThisIsAdventure #Chile



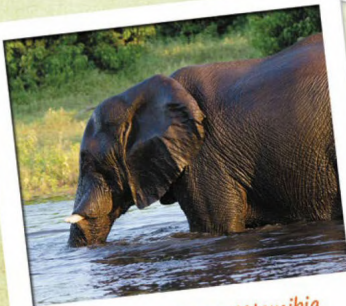
#ThisIsAdventure #Peru



#ThisIsAdventure #Alaska



#ThisIsAdventure #Switzerland



#ThisIsAdventure #Namibia



#ThisIsAdventure #Colorado



#ThisIsAdventure #Ecuador

Adventure travel is more than just vacation. It's immersing yourself in a new culture. It's trying new activities and creating new pathways in your brain. It's experiencing nature in a way that connects you with something bigger. It's learning by doing. It's a trip of a lifetime...every time. Learn more, win trips and share your adventure at www.adventure.travel.

Looking for inspiration for your next adventure?



Stargazing in the Atacama Desert of Chile



Viewing some of the 1,663 bird species in Ecuador



Photographing wildlife in Namibia



Climbing via ferrata in Switzerland



Sleddogging in Alaska's arctic

View more at adventure.travel/live





53

Your local swimming hole

Then there are the secret water spots (such as this stream in the Catskills), the ones you simply call "the swimming hole" or "the creek," and you tell your friends to meet you there on an endless summer afternoon. And nothing could be better.

PHOTOGRAPH BY BRYAN DERBALLA

By EDWARD READICKER-HENDERSON

I used to know a man who tuned rivers.

He would make camp on a willowy bank, then sit and listen. Listen to the chatter of water over rocks, the whirl of an eddy, the late evening splash of trout. ¶ To truly hear the river required a few days. He'd have to learn to separate the trill of a tiny stepped waterfall, or the bass of a torrent over deadfall, from the rest of the landscape. If he was lucky, it would rain, and he'd get a chance to listen to the clouds building the river once again, drops spilling off trees like a water clock. ¶ At last, he'd start to tune the stream. He would wade into the cool wet and move rocks to change the entire music of the flowing water, adding words to the language of a spill of river across moss. ¶ This may be one of the most sensible things anyone has ever done. Because, really, aren't we all dancing to the sound of water before we're even born, in our mothers' wombs?

Forget the poets who tell you we're made of stardust. The human body is composed of up to 60 percent water, a coming together of those most common of elements, hydrogen and oxygen. Our bodies' own rivers and streams are traced in blood, as susceptible to the forces of tides as Canada's Bay of Fundy, where the seawater can rise and drop 50 feet in a matter of hours.

Water compels us, and water saves us. It hydrates us. It keeps our minds supple as we learn its patterns and splashes. It offers us many ways to move through the world. And not just us: Consider whales. Look inside a whale flipper and you'll see the bones of fully articulated fingers. Millennia ago, the precursors of whales came ashore, hung out on land awhile, then headed back to the sea, where they could sing water-carried whale song to each other across hundreds of miles.

Is it any wonder that we run for the water's edge whenever we can, eager to

feel that cut of sand pulling out from under our feet, reminding us where we came from?

Water is anywhere and everywhere. It steams in a hot spring, lingers in a still lake, hides alligators in the rich mud of wetlands, flows as surely as the Mississippi River.

I once stood on the ice sheet that blankets Greenland, stood in a place where absolutely nothing was visible but ice, stood where there was more than a mile of ice beneath me. I wonder now if that ice sheet remains as vast, if it's still as real as cement. Or is the ice cracking, sending out sounds like shots from a very powerful gun? Someday, probably sooner than we expect, all of that ice will be waves, currents, eddies.

I ALSO HAVE LIVED in a place where it didn't rain for 143 days, where there were no rivers, no lakes, nothing but desert and heat and sand and plants

that wanted to harm me. When the rains finally did begin, I stood outside, letting the downpour drench me while I reached my hands to the sky to catch drops even sooner in their descent to Earth.

"He who hears the rippling of rivers... will not utterly despair," wrote Henry David Thoreau in the 1840s. No wonder all civilization has followed rivers, from the Tigris and Euphrates, where essentially everything was invented, to China's Yellow River, along which everything else (the compass, paper, fireworks) was invented. Annual flooding by the Nile River brought fertile silt for crops, which enriched pharaohs—and made possible the pyramids, made possible Cleopatra floating on her barge as if she were on the world's most exclusive cruise line.

Rivers transport us—freighters on the Danube, canoes on the Orinoco, paddle-wheelers on the Columbia—and purify us. In India, millions of people gather at the confluence of the Ganges and Yamuna Rivers to bathe in their waters, washing away sin and preparing for a new life.

My own choice of rivers is the Stikine, which rises deep in British Columbia and cuts to the coast of Alaska. I keep a talismanic jar of the river's water in my house, taken from a night of avalanches and wolf howls.

But don't we all have our own small waters, the water of a homeland? Today, the first mist coming in over salmonberry bushes and the reflections of bald eagles in Washington's Bellingham Bay make me as alert as a wildebeest preparing to cross the crocodile-clotted Mara River in the Serengeti. I believe each of us has

such a centering point. A special cove, with the beach house that smells of coconuts and sunburn; the summer lake with its rope swing.

Can we ever fully know these blessed places? I have been living on a lake in Washington State for the past year. No two days are the same, but I slowly am coming to know the water's rhythms and sounds—the songs of frogs, the way the lily pads turn silver right before the sun drops behind the mountains. Not once have I peered out the window and not seen something completely new.

OVER A LIFE of water defining my own travels across our big blue world, I've kayaked with orcas off a speck on the Alaska map labeled "Deadmans Island," had a hippo try to overturn my boat on the Nile, watched the glint of dolphins surfing a standing wave between sea and lagoon in Tahiti, and, as I explored a swamp, ignored my parents' shouts to watch for snapping turtles, which to a six-year-old are the greatest things ever.

I have sailed on six of the seven seas, through 50-foot-high waves as my vessel traveled the southern Atlantic Ocean on its way to Antarctica, and past sperm whales in the deep Pacific Ocean.

It always has surprised me that we have better maps of the moon than we do of our oceans, even though oceans are home to the biggest mountains on the planet and canyons so deep they make the Grand Canyon look like a roadside ditch. An entire universe thrives under oceanic waves.

What *isn't* down there is light. Photosynthesis doesn't work beyond a depth of 650 feet; by 3,000 feet, the dark is perfect. Filmmaker Stephen Low, who in the 1990s recorded an expedition to the wreck of the R.M.S. *Titanic*, said that when he descended to the ship, resting nearly 10,000 feet deeper than any light not caused by the bioluminescence of

A Very Soggy Time Line



312 B.C.

The first Roman aqueduct is completed.

1777

A member of Captain James Cook's expedition describes seeing Hawaiians surfing.

1843

S.S. *Great Britain*, the world's first modern ocean liner, is launched.



1868

First public swimming pool in the U.S., Boston's Cabot Street Bath, opens.

1914

Panama Canal opens.

1936

Hoover Dam, on Nevada-Arizona border, is completed.



1966

German entrepreneur Heinz Hankammer founds a water filtration company, naming it after his daughter, Brita.
—Maggie Zackowitz

sparse and impossible-to-imagine fish, it suddenly was just there.

"No perspective at all. No way to tell how big the thing is."

The day in 1912 that the "unsinkable" *Titanic* cast off to cross the Atlantic, man experienced a moment of hubris. At last we humans controlled water—though what we master now with computers and GPS is nothing compared with the ancient Polynesians, who learned to read the sea and sky as clearly as a billboard and sailed canoes thousands of miles across a world with no landmarks at all.

In one of the greatest moments of my life, I interviewed explorer Francis Cowan. Sixty years ago he sailed a raft from Tahiti to Chile without navigational instruments other than the sky's swirl of stars.

"But Francis, what did you do when the storms came," I asked, "when you couldn't see the sky?"

"The sea is great," he answered. "You can always wait for another day."

WATER IS GREAT. We tune ourselves to it, to its murmured song of ebb and flow, of wave and ripple, in seas, rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, ponds, snows. We drink it, we bathe in it, we stare at dark clouds praying for their sudden moment of release of it.

"Take me somewhere magical," my favorite cousin once said. So I did, to sail the sea. By the third day our ship was completely out of sight of land, nothing but water curving with the horizon.

"Oh," she said. "Oh. That's exactly what I needed."

Below us, the swells rolled, allowing us to dance with them until our very steps were full of the lift of waves. In our own small way, our steps lifting with the waves, we were tuning the ocean as we sailed—and it, in turn, was tuning us.

EDWARD READICKER-HENDERSON *finds himself seeking out the world's waterscapes.*

Gently Down the Stream

Going fast isn't an option on the Oxford Canal—to the delight of all who merrily, merrily cruise this British waterway.

By **Tara Isabella Burton**
Photographs by **John Kernick**





Easy does it: A narrow boat plies the Oxford Canal, an 18th-century conduit that today attracts cruisers with its natural beauty and leisurely pace.



A town rich in architectural styles, Oxford lays claim to many landmarks, including the domed Radcliffe Camera.

It's Alice's Day in Oxford, England.

A winged griffin is playing a ukulele on Broad Street, awaiting the arrival of the Red Queen. At the nearby Bodleian Library, a caterpillar dispenses nutritional advice to children in pinafores. In front of the Pitt Rivers Museum, a lachrymose Mock Turtle leads a lobster quadrille dance. Me? I'm standing on the prow of the *Hertford*, my rental canal boat, trying to take in this annual celebration of the famous literary creation *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, by Oxford University don Charles Dodgson (better known by his pen name, Lewis Carroll).

I lived on St. Barnabas Street from 2009 to 2010, when I was an undergraduate immersed in the eccentricity of Oxford





University life. England was still new to me, every day a cultural shock as I tried to reconcile English reserve with my American exuberance—a balance that I still am not sure I’ve struck.

But today I am looking at my university home, which sits 60 miles northwest of London, from another angle entirely.

Eager for an adventure, a British friend, Sarah Heenan, and I are spending one week cruising the Oxford Canal, an 18th-century waterway that runs from Oxford north almost 80 miles to Hawkesbury Junction, just north of Coventry.

The experience, we’re discovering, is hardly that of Oxford University, with its Gothic towers. Nor is it of Oxford the town, a staid, prosperous place that, for all its academic whimsy, is unfailingly polite and invariably aloof. For narrow-boaters such as us—which, we will see, includes day-trippers, retirees, and liveaboards gliding leisurely from village to village by water—the Oxford Canal embodies a different, less straitlaced, way of English life.

“Along a canal,” explains Heenan, who grew up around her family’s pub in a Cotswolds village, “you say hello to everybody.”

Perhaps as a release from the intensely private nature of English culture—“you Americans do front lawns,” Heenan notes, “we do back gardens”—Brits seem to come alive on the water. After all, the ultimate fantasy of an English pastoral idyll is Kenneth Grahame’s *The Wind in the Willows*, a classic children’s novel featuring animals dwelling by a river, which was inspired in part by Grahame’s school days on the Oxford Canal.

“Here today, up and off to somewhere else tomorrow!” the book’s enthusiastic Mr. Toad exclaims. “Travel, change, interest, excitement!”

As Heenan and I rev our engine—we’re our own captains after a boat-handling tutorial—we spot an elderly twosome strolling the canal’s towpath. They spy Heenan’s glass of Pimms. “And very good, too!” the woman calls out as we pass.

We raise our glasses to toast her.

Cruising along at three miles an hour, I find myself peering into back gardens, wondering who tends them. Who owns the stone bust of Napoleon? The carving of a rabbit shooting a frog?

I ask Heenan if I’m breaking some fundamental rule of Englishness by looking.

She bursts into laughter. “That’s the most English thing of all!” she says. “Deep down, we’re all really nosy.”

Near the village of Wolvercote, we are preparing to dock when a comely man dressed in a white vest and jeans leaps confidently onto our narrow boat and grabs the tie-up rope.

Route canal: Built to transport merchant boats from Oxford and London to the Midlands, the 78-mile-long Oxford Canal is marked by more than 40 locks, which adjust water levels to enable the raising or lowering of boats—as here, at Lock 34, in Somerton village.





THE RED LION
at Cropredy

THE
RED LION
at Cropredy



*For narrow-boaters—
a mix of retirees,
day-trippers, and
liveaboards—
the Oxford Canal
embodies a less
straitlaced way
of English life.*

Clockwise from left: The Red Lion Inn, in the village of Cropredy, tees up live music, quiz nights—and, it's said, occasional ghost sightings. Onions dry in a barn at Rousham House, an estate known for its 18th-century gardens. Always up for a chat, canal regulars also dispense navigation advice. Pub dog Ollie, brown-eared mascot of the Boat Inn, waits for someone to buy his nightly potato chips.





"Don't worry," he says, when we have secured the vessel. "You're no worse than I was my first time."

Mike Pitman's first time was three years ago. Priced out of property in Oxford, Pitman—a documentary filmmaker and musician in his 20s—bought a boat and has lived ever since along the water, part of a community of artists.

"Before living on a boat, I never knew any of my neighbors by name," Pitman shares. Here on the water, he knows everyone. "Or at least what instrument they play."

He invites me onto his boat, *Songlines*, and shows me his Australian didgeridoo—his favorite instrument—followed by an Indian flute.

"I played a duet with this guy under a bridge once," he says. "When we were done, he gave me his flute."

Just like that?

Pitman shrugs.

"We look out for each other," he says, sometimes by monitoring mooring spaces when one of them is away, sometimes by pet-sitting or helping with boat repairs. Another boater, a photographer named Jeff Slade, ambles over. He and Pitman trade news: Two buzzards have taken up residence in a canalside tree; one of the moorhens has given birth to five chicks. Slade shows me a repurposed flowerpot on his own boat's roof; he hopes the local duck will lay her eggs there.

At first these boaters' attention to nature's details surprises me. So far on our cruise, the landscape has been overwhelmingly green. Picking out individual shapes has seemed as impossible as picking out brushstrokes in a Monet painting. But as we wend past bend after identical bend, thatch-roofed village after thatch-roofed village, the landscape's uniformity breaks apart like a kaleidoscope. At the pace the *Hertford* will let us go—four miles an hour, top speed—it's impossible to not look at every branch, every leaf, a little longer, a little more carefully. I start to notice the difference between Japanese and giant knotweed, elderflowers and Queen Anne's lace. A few days ago, all this was a vague notion I had of "countryside." The canal was a waterway I barely glanced at. Today, each branch, each bush, each bend of the canal contains universes.

In *The Wind in the Willows*, Rat tells Mole "there is nothing—absolutely nothing—half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats."

Aboard the *Hertford* I have little time to mess about. There always is something to do: piloting, mooring, unmooring, filling the water tank. And the routine of locks—enclosures with sliding gates that adjust water levels,



It's all about teatime at Jane's Enchanted Tea Garden, a seasonal pop-up venue run by canalside resident Jane Fanner (left, top); at outdoor tables, guests tuck into scones, jams, and sandwiches (left).

enabling boats to travel from lower to higher areas—is the most ceaseless of all. Every hour or so we stop to open one gate, cruise into the lock, slide up the panels (called paddles or wickets) to let water flow into the lock and make the boat rise (we are heading upstream), open the exit gate, then reset everything.

I wonder once or twice what Rat was talking about in *The Wind in the Willows*. To my surprise, however, the routine soon becomes comforting, a quiet rhythm that gives structure to the meandering of days. I find myself taking pride in winching up a particularly heavy paddle or forcing a stuck gate. I like the tangible, physical results.

The locks, Heenan and I soon realize, double as social hubs, where strangers exchange travel advice or boating gossip, or help less experienced boaters. Arriving at a lock now means seeing familiar faces: the redheaded Scottish family of four; the bachelor party group; Derek, a retiree from Birmingham, who bought a boat when he turned 60 (“better that than a Zimmer frame!” he says, the British term for a walker) and who stays behind to help us close the gate.

It’s just good boating etiquette, Derek says after I thank him. He lives on his boat alone, a rarity given the amount of work cruising entails. But he never worries. “People help me on the locks all the time, so I help them. That’s just how it is.”

Besides, he adds, he’s not in any rush.

Nobody here is.

IT TAKES A FEW DAYS before I understand what “canal pace” means. I had drawn an optimistic map at the week’s outset, circling planned mooring points as I plotted to make it all the way to my arbitrarily chosen destination of Napton on the Hill, some 20 miles south of Coventry, before winding back toward Oxford. It would be a grueling route of seven hours of boating a day (canal travel is measured in hours, given the variables of lock traffic), I’d judged, but doable.

We’re speeding as quickly as the *Hertford* will allow. If we hurry, we can make the village of King’s Sutton by nightfall. Dusk glints golden on the water as we cruise past Upper Heyford. Sheep nip at long grasses in the shadow of its Gothic church tower. It’s the most idyllic spot we’ve seen on the canal so far, and we’re tempted to stop. But it’s not on our schedule. I turn off the engine anyway.

Heenan pours out our Pimms. A few minutes later, a young

Read it, Do it

PLANNING YOUR CANAL TRIP

Numerous outfitters offer canal boats for rent, including Rose Narrowboats, CanalHolidays.com, Oxfordshire Narrowboats, Twyford Wharf Narrowboats, and College Cruisers, which the author used. Rates for two people for one week’s rental hover around \$1,500 (£1,000).

MORE EUROPEAN OPTIONS

With its network of canals, Europe offers the most choices. Canals popular for recreational barging include France’s Burgundy Canal and Canal du Midi; England’s Kennet and Avon Canal; and the Scottish Lowland Canals. Many outfitters rent boats, including Le Boat, Black Prince, and Canal Barge Cruises.

IN THE UNITED STATES

The U.S. has its own historic waterway, the Erie Canal, completed in 1825 to connect Albany and Buffalo; outfitters include Erie Canal Cruise Lines and the Erie-Champlain Canal Boat Company.

man appears on the towpath, walking his dog. As he gets close, the dog sniffs the air, then scampers onto our deck before its owner can stop it. Mortified, he stutters out an apology.

We laugh it off, retrieve the dog, make conversation. Kevin, we learn, is a Heyford local. I invite him to join us for a drink, motivated in equal parts by hospitality and anthropological curiosity. Under normal circumstances here, I know, this would be considered only slightly less brazen than proposing marriage. But we’re on a boat.

For a moment, Kevin looks surprised, even nervous. Then he takes a deep breath and steps on deck. We hand him a Pimms and clink glasses. At last he smiles. For half an hour we drink and talk, about the weather, Heyford life, the canal. Kevin admits he wonders about the boats he sees cruising by. Still, he could never imagine doing it himself. “You’d have to say hello to people all the time, be friendly. We couldn’t have that!”

There is one place, Heenan points out, where English people always say hello. The pub, in most small villages the only choice for food or drink, is to locals what locks are to boaters: the one socially sanctioned space where talking to strangers is not only allowed but encouraged. Several pubs are signposted “Open 11 a.m. until close.”

Isn’t that a tautology? I ask Heenan.

“You’ll see,” she answers.

Each pub will have its own character. There’s the Boat Inn, in Thrupp, where locals vie to buy the geriatric pub dog, Ollie, his nightly potato chips. There’s the brick Bell Inn, in Lower Heyford, where an elderly man enters, only to start at the sight of Heenan and me on a sofa. (We’re sitting in his customary seat, another regular explains.)

But nothing compares to the rambunctious energy of the Red Lion Inn, in the thatch-roofed village of Cropredy. Drawings by a local artist line the walls, along with clocks handcrafted by the owner’s father-in-law. In the corridor to the bathroom I find framed limericks riffing on regulars’ drunken antics and dietary misfortunes.

Those same regulars hold court from 6 to 10 p.m. at the bar, engaging in sometimes raucous mockery of one another. When I ask the barmaid about the pub’s rumored ghosts—Cropredy was the site of a 1644 battle during England’s Civil War—a

Cozying up to neighbors comes naturally along the canal, where boaters share moorings, refreshments, and accounts of their day.



*As we wend past
bend after identical
bend, the land's
uniformity breaks
apart like a
kaleidoscope. Each
bush we see now
contains universes.*

gray-haired biker in a bandanna cuts in before she can answer:
"She's the one who is 'aunted!"

An elderly liveaboard boater named Mick—who, I learn, lost his business, declared bankruptcy, and realized that "they can't send collections if you're always moving"—takes it upon himself to help me understand a proper village pub.

"When I came in here, I hit my head on those"—he points out the low ceiling beams—"and the barmaid, instead of helping me, laughed." He waits for me to get it.

"That's what a proper pub is! People taking the mickey out of you, teasing you, even if you're a stranger." English people, he insists, are as open as anyone else; they just need an excuse to show it. "Why do you think English people talk so much about the weather? It's 'orrible, and we know it's 'orrible. It just gives us a reason to say something."

I tell him about our dawdling in bucolic Upper Heyford, and he remarks, "That's nothing. It took me three and a half weeks to get here—I saw a field full of cows I liked."

Outside the Red Lion, church bells begin to ring the 11 p.m. hour. We're approaching closing time, but tonight's patrons show no signs of leaving—and the barmaid just continues to chat with everyone.

"When they close, they close," shrugs Mick.

We don't exchange numbers—there's no phone signal—but Mick invites me to look for him on our return voyage. I will find Mick again, at Cropredy Lock. He'll grin, wave, then cruise on.

IF A PUB—England's great equalizer, where rich and poor, locals and transients come together—has an opposite, it's the stately country manor, or estate. These days many historic English manors, often the homes of aristocrats, open their doors to the public. They are, I learn, where the English go to indulge in that most English pursuit: peeking into the private lives of others.

Of the three or four manors we pass, it's the palatial Rousham House that most piques my interest. This 17th-century residence, still lived in by descendants of the original owners, is visitable only by appointment, but the acres of gardens are open daily.

Among the most celebrated landscapes in England, they were designed in the 1700s by the architect and artist William Kent, who pioneered the "natural" landscape.

"This is the ultimate English domestic fantasy," says Heenan, "the private garden that feels like it's in wilderness."

We are only a 15-minute walk from the canal, but in this riotously colorful floral setting, we find ourselves in the heart of Alice's labyrinth. Passages wind through hedges, past hidden fountains, toward purpose-built "ruins" and Grecian arcades that lead nowhere. I watch a lone peacock sashay in front of the entrance to the round pigeon house, which echoes with the coos of pigeons and doves.

Still, it's the residents of Rousham House who fascinate me. Passing the front door, I search for clues to the inhabitants within. "Home Rule," says a sticker on the front door, which also features an EU flag with an X drawn through it. "British Subjects, Not EU Citizens," another states. I sneak a glance into the windows. Everything is museum-perfect—paneled walls, oil paintings, gold brocade wallpaper—except one touch: the most outstanding collection of ugly porcelain figurines I've ever seen.

I think of Heenan's insistence on English nosiness, and smile. Englishness has rubbed off on me after all.

Our last night on the *Hertford*, we moor in north Oxford—and I am back where I began, a short walk from my old university quarters. I feel almost regretful. Seven years in England, I think—what else did I miss? How much time did I waste, failing to follow and explore this path that started in my own backyard?

A thrush flutters down to my feet. Once, I might have scared it away. But a week on the water has left me slower, more careful in my movements. The bird lets me approach and photograph it at close range before it vanishes against the gold of sky.

I make out the charred remains of bonfires in the grass around me. I wonder if they belong to Mike Pitman, to Jeff Slade, to the boaters who have made the canal their own.

Then I remember a plaque I'd seen along the nearby Thames River, part of a local initiative to record oral histories.

"My father was a great plant lover..." it reads. "We spent a whole afternoon by the river at Godstow in the beautiful spring sunshine, searching the meadows for birthwort which we didn't find. I thought it was a real waste of time, but now I look back on that afternoon as a lovely day spent with my eccentric Dad."

I understand. On the water there really is no such thing as a waste of time.

TARA ISABELLA BURTON ([@NotoriousTIB](#)) wrote about visiting Paris in the guise of a modern-day flaneur, in our story "Café Society" (October 2015). Photographer JOHN KERNICK ([@johnkernickphotography](#)) is profiled on page 4.

BOTSWANA

THE LAST SANCTUARY

Celebrating its 50th anniversary, this nation models how to save Africa's wildlife.





by COSTAS CHRIST *photographs by* AARON HUEY

The tawny sands of the Kalahari Desert envelop our 4x4 in a dusty cloud as we race along a rutted track to the Tsodilo Hills, in northern Botswana. Three rocky monoliths emerge into

view across the otherwise flat landscape that defines most of this African nation.

“This place has been occupied by humans for more than 100,000 years,” says my guide. “The indigenous San people believe it brings positive energy to all who come here.” Tsodilo’s stony mounds, since 2001 a World Heritage site, also contain one of the highest concentrations of ancient rock art on Earth, with more than 4,500 paintings discovered to date. The three main

hills are known as Male, Female, and Child, and are revered as the spot where creation began—a San Garden of Eden. Indeed, geological evidence indicates that water covered much of the area thousands of years ago, and fish were abundant.

Xuntae Xhao leads me along one of more than a dozen trails that traverse Tsodilo to the precise place where his San ancestors believe their creator lowered all creatures from the sky. Indentations that resemble the cloven hooves of a kudu antelope



and the outline of a human body mark the spot in the rockscape.

"People came first, followed by the animals to help them survive. It was a time when humans and animals were all equal," he says. Today, this venerated place is looked after by the Tsodilo Community Trust, an innovative partnership between San villagers and the Botswana government.

"The San are Tsodilo's rightful guardians and beneficiaries," says Charles Motshubi, a community development organizer and the Tsodilo project manager. Xhao nods. "It is we who know the ancient stories of this land."

That night the wind comes up, howling along the prehistoric cliffs adorned with depictions painted in red of rhinos, eland, and elephants.

INTO THE WILD

THE OKAVANGO DELTA

"Hippos and crocs patrol the deep water, so let's keep to the shallows and give them their privacy," Goitseone Monnaphutego says as we pole our way by *mokoro*, or canoe, into the Okavango Delta. What he doesn't add is that elephants like their water both ways—shallow and deep. Now we watch two bulls emerge from the reeds ahead of us. As the bigger one turns our way and flaps his ears in warning, Monnaphutego brings the *mokoro* to a stop and whispers, "Whoever said the lion is king of the jungle is wrong. That title has always belonged to the elephant."

This king is in grave danger. Between 2010 and 2012 alone, more than 100,000 African elephants were slaughtered across the African continent, fueled by Asia's illegal ivory syndicates. In the mayhem, Botswana is fast becoming their last sanctuary. This landlocked nation boasts the largest herds of free-roaming elephants in Africa and is home to one third of the continent's threatened elephant population.

"If this trend [poaching] continues unabated, it is likely that elephants will go extinct in most of their range in our lifetimes," Botswana's conservation-minded President Seretse Khama Ian Khama said last July. Khama's plan: Promote community-based ecotourism, enforce strict antipoaching regulations, and slap a ban on big-game hunting.

Monnaphutego exemplifies this conservation approach. "My father was a poacher; I was destined to follow his path until

I learned wildlife is something to be conserved, not feared, to improve our lives." He and veteran local guide Kgaga Kgaga run Okavango Museum Explorations, an outfitter specializing in discovering the delta by *mokoro*. They represent a new generation of Africans turned ecotourism entrepreneurs. Over several days, we pole along remote waterways that "my people have used for centuries," encountering hippos, fish eagles, goliath herons, and wattled cranes. One evening we see the flash of a sitatunga as it disappears along the water's edge. The aquatic antelope is so rare that locals refer to it as Botswana's unicorn.

"I have seen a sitatunga only three times," Monnaphutego murmurs to me. "As quick as they appear, they vanish."



AFRICA'S ARK

MOREMI GAME RESERVE

"Wild dogs ahead!" exclaims the tracker, riding in a seat welded to the front frame of our Toyota Land Cruiser. Since dawn we've been hot on the trail of one of the most elusive and endangered mammals in the world—the African wild dog. We're following not one but a pack of 21.

A dizzying array of tracks discloses that this pack hunted an impala the previous evening. Bellies full, the family is now lounging in the shade of an acacia—pups frolicking and adults

A guide poles a *mokoro*, or traditional canoe, through wetlands of the Okavango Delta (left), a World Heritage site that is home to endangered species such as the African wild dog and black rhino. Ancient rock art (above) draws visitors to Botswana's other World Heritage site, the Tsodilo Hills, dubbed the "Louvre of the Desert." Opening pages: Elephants big and small refuel at a watering hole in Botswana's eastern Tuli Block area.



Horseback riders pass a group of zebras (above) in late afternoon on the Makgadikgadi salt pans, the remains of an ancient lake. Nearby, at tented San Camp, a staff member sets the table for dinner (opposite).

slumbering—belying the fact that their entire population has dwindled to some 5,000, which lands them on the doorstep of extinction. The good news: The Moremi Game Reserve’s ecosystem of overlapping marshes, grasslands, and woodlands of mopani and acacia trees has become a wild dog stronghold. The first such sanctuary created by local communities in southern Africa, it was established in the 1960s.

Today, safari lodges such as &Beyond’s Sandibe Okavango lodge offer a base camp for forays into Moremi.

“Conservation is at the heart of all we do,” &Beyond’s CEO, Joss Kent, tells me. His company, in partnership with another, Great Plains Conservation, and the Botswana government, has embarked on its most ambitious project, Rhinos Without Borders, to save another iconic animal now tottering on the edge of extinction; a rhino horn can fetch more than \$200,000 on the black market. (Its supposed medicinal power has been debunked by science.) Other safari outfitters, including Wilderness Safaris and Abercrombie & Kent, also are riding to the rescue in a huge effort to relocate rhinos from adjacent countries where poaching has skyrocketed in recent years. Botswana has become the continent’s safest haven, a modern-day ark for Africa’s threatened species. Sandibe Okavango Safari Lodge even resembles an ark, albeit of an eco-luxury kind. Elephants feed on palm trees beside guest rooms, baboons scamper across the lodge veranda, and nearby lions call to each other in deep throaty rumbles.



KALAHARI SALT FLATS THE MAKGADIKGADI

Among the most dramatic sights visible on satellite images of Africa is a cluster of huge irregular oblongs in the continent’s southern reaches. Zoom in closer and the Makgadikgadi Pans, one of the world’s largest complexes of salt flats, come into focus. Think barren, endless, empty—yet anything but lifeless. In this

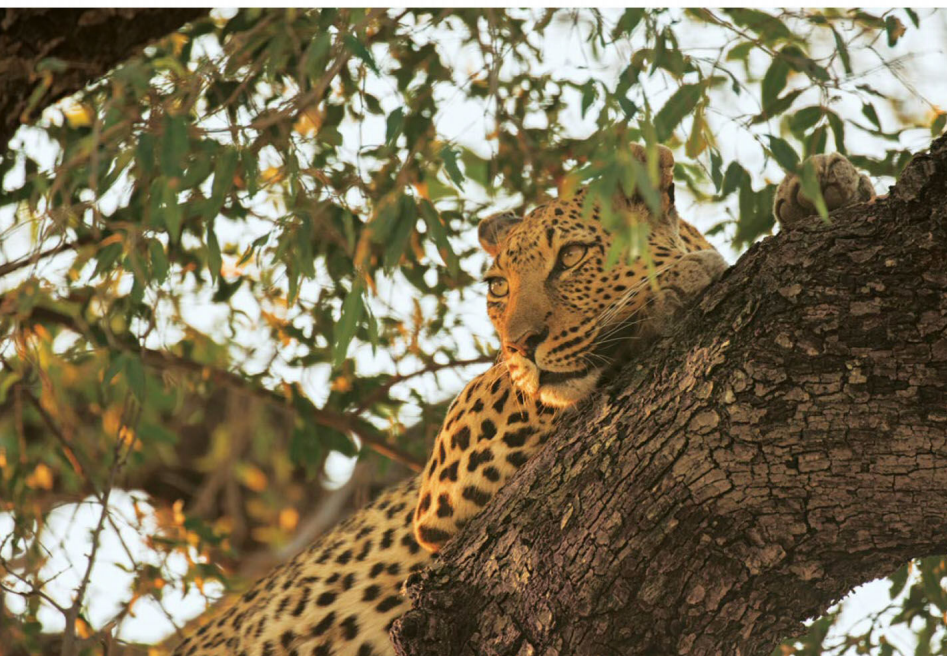


panscape of sometimes searing heat by day and cool, breezy nights, the footprints of zebras, giraffes, ostriches, and other desert-adapted creatures crisscross the otherworldly terrain, reminding me of astronauts' footsteps left on the moon. While the tracks appear to wander aimlessly, in fact they weave a story: It is here that one of Africa's epic migrations unfolds each year, as huge herds of zebras search for the mineral-rich grasses that flourish in the surrounding area. The zebras are dwarfed in number only by the hundreds of thousands of greater and lesser flamingos that come to nest in the remote pans. Pause long enough to look and listen, and a bounty of life materializes.

wildebeests stare at us curiously. With no engine running and no exhaust fumes spewing, we merge with the animal kingdom.

"I've heard there are seven-star hotels somewhere in the world," says Robyn. Sweeping her arm toward the vast sky above us, she declares, "This is a million-star hotel."

Later that evening, I meet Super, San Camp's senior guide, who has spent 26 years exploring the pans. We head out for a night drive and soon spot the rarest of the four hyena species, the brown hyena, as well as another rare night wanderer, the reclusive aardwolf. When a huge southern African porcupine wanders by, I know my night is complete.



BUSH BIKING IN MASHATU TULI BLOCK

Tuli Block, a ribbon of land in the country's far eastern region, is a place where people and wilderness intermingle to the benefit of both. It's home to the Mashatu Game Reserve, one of the largest private protected areas in Africa's south, and is serviced by locally owned tour operators and lodges, from rustic to luxury. Tuli also is the sole place in Botswana where you can go on a mountain biking safari in a designated game reserve. The master of bush cycling is Johan Rakumako, who helped map the Tour de Tuli, a five-day off-the-grid tour using elephant migration routes. Who knew that pachyderms create well-groomed mountain bike trails?

"To see a wild elephant from a mountain bike is an experience," Rakumako enthuses as we set out for a day of riding through the remote Limpopo River Valley, where the

borders of Botswana, Zimbabwe, and South Africa intersect. This part of the country stands in stark contrast to the rest of Botswana—craggy escarpments and sandstone ridges replace the flat plains, while waterfalls tumble and massive nyala berry trees create vistas of resplendent greenery.

The euphoria of a memorable journey washes over me. I know Rakumako, Monnaphutego, Kgaga, Xhao, and others I've met are creating a future for themselves and for some of the most endangered wildlife on Earth. As we ride along elephant highways, through dry riverbeds and across open fields, flocks of helmeted guinea fowl squawk, and browsing eland, herds of impala, and noble-looking giraffes watch us go by.

Editor at Large COSTAS CHRIST (🐦 @costaschrist) *writes and speaks about sustainable tourism. Photographer* AARON HUEY (📷 @argonautphoto) *shot "Postmark Bulgaria" (November 2015). This story was made possible with support from Botswana Tourism.*

"We want to bring simplicity back to going on safari, and for us that means being in wide-open spaces on horseback," explains David Foot, who set up Ride Botswana with his wife,

Robyn. Their mission is to offer travelers a chance to experience an African safari from the old days, before the advent of bush planes and 4x4s.

From San Camp, a collection of six walk-in tents adorned with antiques and artifacts, we set out on horses, walking and then galloping toward a faraway tree line. In the 4,600 square miles of the Makgadikgadi that surround us, I do not see one building, cell tower, or paved road in any direction.

As sunset approaches, we stop for gin-and-tonic sundowners as herds of

PLANNING A TRIP

Ready to plan a trip to Botswana? Log on to our website, natgeotravel.com, to explore our online Botswana Guide, full of travel information, country facts, stories, tips, and photographs. To visit the official Botswana Tourism website: botswana-tourism.co.bw

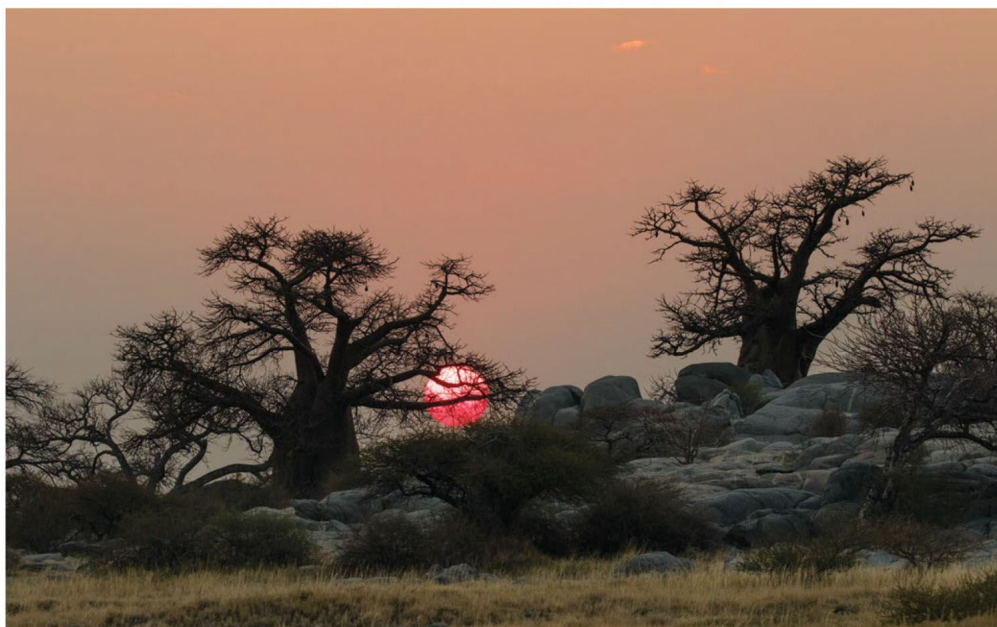


Botswana three ways: Leopard-spotting often means looking for the big cats in trees (opposite); a cottage at Sandibe Okavango Safari Lodge (above); bikers in the Mashatu Game Reserve (below) cross paths with wildlife.



OUR PICKS

NINE GREAT BOTSWANA EXPERIENCES



6 BUSH TELEGRAPH

Long before GPS there was Chapman's Baobab, a monumental tree used as a landmark by 19th-century travelers crossing the Kalahari Desert. It also helped move mail: Travelers tucked letters into its hollows for other explorers to find and relay to family and friends back home.

7 PEDAL POWER

Want to do good while biking your way into great shape? Join the annual Tour de Tuli, a multiday mountain biking adventure. The tour traverses terrain in Botswana, Zimbabwe, and South Africa to support Children in the Wilderness, an organization that runs programs to inspire and educate Africa's next generation of conservation leaders.

8 NATIONAL PRIDE

On September 30, 2016, Botswana will mark 50 years of independence from Britain with grand festivities, including cultural events, processions, and arts performances.

1 DESERT ISLAND

Botswana is home to geological oddities, including an outcrop of boulders and baobabs in a sea of sand. Known as Lekhubu, or Kubu Island, it once sat in a vast lake that covered much of the Makgadikgadi salt pans. Locals watch over the site, where they also run a campground for travelers.

3 GONE FISHING

When the waters of the Okavango Delta recede in September, fly fishermen rejoice. Giant catfish gather in papyrus reeds, slapping the water with their tails to stun baitfish—an action that attracts feisty tiger fish that in turn offer anglers an exciting catch-and-release experience.

The setting sun lights baobab trees on Kubu (above), a rock outcrop circled by sand. Bold patterns distinguish baskets (bottom) made in Botswana.

2 WOVEN WARES

Traditional Botswana baskets are renowned for their tight weaving and patterns; a single basket can take weeks to complete. Some of the best, fashioned with young fronds of the *mokolwane* palm, can be found in the craft shops of Maun, a safari hub.

4 STARRY NIGHT

Evenings in Botswana bring a cosmic show. Guests at San Camp, by the salt flats of Makgadikgadi Pans National Park, are treated to the Milky Way splashed across a sky free of light pollution. Visitors to the private Mashatu Game Reserve can join night drives, which search for nocturnal animals such as caracals.

5 ART HAVEN

You'll find artwork depicting Botswana's cultural heritage, wildlife, and more at the Thapong Visual Arts Centre, in the capital city, Gaborone. The center hosts workshops and provides studio space for artists. Also in the capital: the National Museum and Art Gallery, with its own exhibits of Botswana art.



9

Pachyderm Party

One of Africa's largest concentrations of elephants lives in Chobe National Park, migrating seasonally between the park's floodplains and salt pans. For prime elephant-viewing, visit the Chobe River area (above) in October. Guests at the Chobe Game

Lodge gather on the lodge boardwalk for sightings of these largest of land animals, along with zebras and other wildlife.

AARON HUEY (SUNSET), KARIN DUTHEIL (ALAMY STOCK PHOTO (BASKET), ANN AND STEVE TOON (ALAMY STOCK PHOTO (ELEPHANTS))

ALASKA

**YOU DON'T
WANT TO
MISS THIS**

Order a FREE Official
Alaska State Travel Guide
AlaskaTripPlanning.com/gt
1-866-619-7000



visit anchorage
ALASKA
VisitAnchorage.net



EXTRAORDINARY
EVERY DAY

TRAVEL JUNEAU
JUNEAU CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU
traveljuneau.com

Order your
free travel
planner today!
877.581.2201



explore FAIRBANKS
ALASKA
www.explorefairbanks.com



ALASKA'S PLAYGROUND
2016 KENAI PENINSULA
DISCOVERY GUIDE

Over 16,000 square
miles of adventure,
just south of
Anchorage.

ORDER YOUR
FREE VACATION
PLANNER TODAY!

1-800-535-3624 www.kenaipeninsula.org



Escape
to the Best of Alaska

Alaska Travel Experts...
Denali Specialists

1.888.884.1992 AlaskaDenaliTravel.com

alaska
denali travel



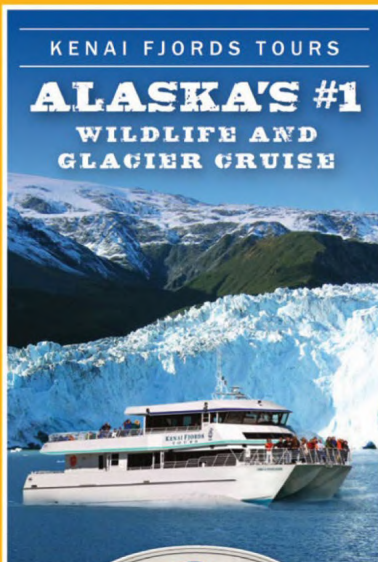
www.TundraToursInc.com



Alaska -
It's waiting for you.
Denali National Park

CUSTOM VACATIONS TO SPECTACULAR DESTINATIONS!

Alaska
TOUR & TRAVEL
1-800-208-0200
AlaskaTravel.com



KENAI FJORDS TOURS

ALASKA'S #1
WILDLIFE AND
GLACIER CRUISE

KENAI FJORDS
TOURS

888-4PUFFIN (478-3346)
KenaiFjords.com/natgeo

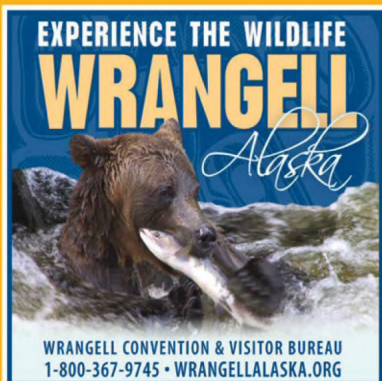


SEE IT ALL. DO IT ALL.
ABOVE IT ALL.

Goldbelt MOUNT ROBERTS
SEASIDE
TRAMWAY

Hiking, Dining, Shopping,
Native Culture, Wildlife,
Panoramic Views

MOUNTROBERTSTRAMWAY.COM
907-463-3412



EXPERIENCE THE WILDLIFE
WRANGELL
Alaska

WRANGELL CONVENTION & VISITOR BUREAU
1-800-367-9745 • WRANGELLALASKA.ORG



DISCOVER KODIAK
ALASKA'S WILD WEST

www.kodiak.org
1 (800) 789-4782
visit@kodiak.org

INTRODUCING A NEW WAY TO EXPERIENCE THE WORLD

 NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC
JOURNEYS

Small groups. Knowledgeable local guides. Incredible value. More free time and choices. We've partnered with G Adventures to offer 70 new trips that combine hands-on exploration, meaningful encounters with people and cultures, freedom to roam, and, of course, fun.

natgeojourneys.com/travel | 1-800-281-2354

FREE TRAVEL INFORMATION

A listing of advertisers who would like to offer you additional information about their products and services



Circle the number on the attached card and mail or fax to 888-847-6035



Text TRFEB followed by the category # to 41411



For instant access, visit us online at ngt-travelinfo.com

Alaska

(circle 135 or text TRFEB 135 to 41411)

1. **Alaska**
From breathtaking glaciers and mountains to wildlife, you don't want to miss Alaska. Get your FREE Alaska Official State Vacation Planner today!
2. **Alaska Tour & Travel**
Specializing in custom vacations to Alaska's most spectacular destinations. Lodging, activities, and the Alaska Railroad.
3. **Discover Kodiak** 907-486-4782
4. **Explore Fairbanks, Alaska**
Be inspired by the light of the Aurora Borealis. Renew your energy under the Midnight Sun. Experience the warmth of Fairbanks.
5. **Goldbelt Mount Roberts Tramway**
SE Alaska's only aerial tram. Hike, dine, shop. Native art, expansive views, rainforest & subalpine wildlife. ADA compliant, family friendly. Open May-Sept.
6. **Juneau CVB** 907-586-1762
7. **Kenai Fjords Tours**
Alaska's #1 Wildlife & Glacier Cruise. Explore spectacular scenery, tidewater glaciers and abundant wildlife in Kenai Fjords National Park.
8. **Kenai Peninsula Tourism Marketing Council**
Located just south of Anchorage, the Kenai Peninsula offers over 16,000 sq. miles of adventure. That's why we are known as Alaska's Playground.
9. **Visit Anchorage, Alaska**
Glaciers, mountains and wildlife: discover Alaska's natural wonders in Anchorage!
10. **Wrangell Convention & Visitor Bureau**
Visit Wrangell for your dream Alaska vacation. Beautiful scenery, wildlife viewing, fishing and history.

Travel the U.S.A.

(circle 500 or text TRFEB 500 to 41411)

11. **Arizona Office of Tourism**
Arizona's less traveled destinations make ideal getaways. In just a few hours, you can be anywhere in the state. Get out on the open road and get ready for adventure.
12. **Cochise County Tourism Council, AZ**
Land of Legends. Wyatt Earp, Cochise, and Pancho Villa made history here. Vineyards and wine tasting are the new legends being born.
13. **Flagstaff, Arizona**
Nestled in the mountains of northern Arizona, Flagstaff is the destination for all seasons.
14. **Montana**
Would you like to hike? Mountain bike? See wildlife? Fish? Float rivers? The options are as vast as this amazing state. Montana — it's time.
15. **Navajo Tourism Department, AZ**
The Navajo Nation. Come, discover, explore, and experience the natural grandeur and charm of the Navajo Nation.
16. **Scottsdale Convention & Visitors Bureau**
With nearly 75 choices ranging from posh to playful, Scottsdale's hotels & resorts welcome you with accommodations that are as individual as you are.
17. **The Great State of Texas**
Texas... It's like a whole other country that's miles away from ordinary. Explore like a local with our #TexasToDo Films and #TexasToDo Gallery.

Hot Spot Travel: Best of the West

(circle 134 or text TRFEB 134 to 41411)

18. **California's Redwood Coast — Humboldt County.** 800-346-3482

19. **Catalina Island — One hour off SoCal coast.** 866-449-5807
20. **Juneau — Alaska's wilderness capital city.** 888-581-2201
21. **Lewis Clark Valley — Confluence of adventure.** 877-774-7248
22. **Oceanside — San Diego's North Shore.** 866-292-9224
23. **San Mateo County/Silicon Valley — S.F. Bay Area.** 800-288-4748
24. **Sonoma County — Genuine Wine Country.** 800-576-6662
25. **Ventura/Channel Islands — One hour from L.A.** 800-483-6204

Travel the World

(circle 503 or text TRFEB 503 to 41411)

26. **Aurora Expeditions**
Small-ship cruises to Antarctica, Arctic, Scotland, Alaska & the Kimberley Coast. NEW! Small-group trekking adventures to Nepal, Bhutan & Patagonia.
27. **Mark Thornton Safaris** +255-787-541-686
28. **New Zealand Trails 'World Heritage Walking Tour'**
The best of the best in New Zealand on a friendly small group tour with expert guides, comfortable accommodation and great cuisine.
29. **Ritz Tours**
35 years of experience in memorable journeys for escorted groups to Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East with the best quality and value in travel.
30. **World Expeditions** 800-567-2216

Hotels & Resorts

(circle 504 or text TRFEB 504 to 41411)

31. **America's Best Value Inn**
A family of 1,000 inns, hotels and suites throughout North America, offering hometown comfort, quality and service at an exceptional value.
32. **Aston Hotels & Resorts**
Spacious accommodations in Hawaii with comprehensive resort amenities to fit any lifestyle, and budget.
33. **Fogo Island Inn, Newfoundland Canada**
The Inn sits on an island, off an island, on one of the four corners of the earth. An architectural gem, it's located along Iceberg Alley.
34. **Kasbah Du Toubkal**
A Unique Lodge of the World—Kasbah Du Toubkal is 40 miles from Marrakech, a day from N Africa's highest mountain. +33 549 050135
35. **Lizard Island**
Like Nowhere Else. Northernmost island resort on the Great Barrier Reef. Understated luxury, beauty in a tropical backdrop.
36. **Longitude 131**
Australia's most exclusive outback encounter. Call +61 2 9918 4355.
37. **Rubondo Island Camp**
38. **Sabi Sabi**
Earth Lodge, with 13 spectacular suites, offers guests the ultimate in luxury accommodation, excellent cuisine and amazing wildlife experiences.
39. **Southern Ocean Lodge**
Southern Ocean Lodge is Australian luxury travel defined. Call +61 2 9918 4355.

40. **The Brando**
A unique luxury resort on French Polynesia's private island of Tetiaroa—an atoll surrounding a lagoon 30 miles north of Tahiti.
41. **Three Camel Lodge**
Explore the mysteries of the Gobi Desert while staying at the perfect place to experience the heart of Mongolia!
42. **Tswalu Kalahari Reserve**
Expect sightings of some extraordinary wildlife. 2 luxury camps accommodate 30 guests who dictate the itinerary.
43. **Zhiwa Ling Hotel**

Cruising

(circle 505 or text TRFEB 505 to 41411)

44. **Delfin Amazon Cruises**
Enjoy a Luxury Expedition Amazon Cruise in the Peruvian rain forest. Indulge yourself in a private experience on board our 4-cabin cruise ship.

Traveler Getaways

(circle 507 or text TRFEB 507 to 41411)

45. **Active South America**
Offering outstanding, all-inclusive small group adventure vacations in Peru, Patagonia, Ecuador and Galapagos Islands.
46. **African Safari Company** 800-414-3090
47. **Andante Travels**
There's no time like the past. Journey into the ancient world with Andante Travels — experts in archaeological travel. 888-331-3476.
48. **Asia Transpacific Journeys** 800-642-2742
49. **Boundless Journeys** 800-941-8010
50. **Canadian River Expeditions** 800-297-6929
51. **Costa Rica Experts**
With 27+ years of experience, we're the difference between a good trip and a lifetime memory. Customize your vacation to include adventure, wildlife, beaches, rainforests, jungles and volcanoes.
52. **Gondwana Ecotours** 877-587-8479
53. **Greensboro Area Convention & Visitors Bureau**
Play in the Center of it All — Greensboro, NC. Immerse yourself in Greensboro's family oriented attractions & explore over 200 years of rich history!
54. **MIR Corporation** 800-424-7289
55. **Mountain Lodges of Peru**
Offering first-class lodge-to-lodge adventures to Machu Picchu, with the choice of trekking on the Salkantay Trail or an a-la-carte multi activity program on the Lares Adventure.
56. **Pacific Delight Tours** 800-221-7179
57. **Tara Tours**
Tour Company specializing in travel to Central & South America. 800-327-0080.
58. **The Outer Banks of North Carolina**
OBX Marks the Spot for your next adventure. 100 miles of beaches, history and unique adventures. Get your free travel guide today.
59. **Wilderness Travel** 800-368-2794
60. **World Spree**
Asia Travel Specialist. Small groups, great guides, nice hotels, good meals, once-in-a-lifetime experience for discerning travelers. Dare to Compare!



SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

NEXT STOP

SIGNATURE EVENTS AND PROMOTIONS



Botswana: adventure—redefined

The great service and welcome you receive will be from the heart and second to none. Experience true ecotourism in a visionary country that outlaws hunting and believes that only a camera should ever be aimed at a lion. Botswana is a perfect destination for a honeymoon where you can discover our award-winning ecolodges on an amazing wildlife safari dedicated to protecting nature. For more information visit: botswanaturism.co.bw



Photography Workshop in Scottsdale

Join National Geographic photographers Nevada Wier and Dan Westergren for a weekend workshop at the Omni Scottsdale Resort & Spa at Montelucia, where they'll provide hands-on instruction and guide you through on-location field shooting.

National Geographic Traveler Photography Workshop
April 1-4, 2016 • For Special Weekend Package visit:

nationalgeographic.com/scottsdale



THIS IS WHAT HAPPILY EVER AFTER LOOKS LIKE.

You can never have too much of a good thing. Our Stay & Play offer is all about seeing, doing, and experiencing more on your Rocky Mountaineer rail journey. Book a qualifying package and you'll receive up to an extra \$600* per couple in credit to spend on tours, extra hotel nights, and much more. Happy adventuring!

Choose your route, pick your package & book today.

Stay & Play

BOOK NOW AND RECEIVE UP TO

\$**600***

PER COUPLE IN ADDED VALUE TO SPEND ON
EXTRA HOTEL NIGHTS, TOURS, & MORE



ROCKY MOUNTAINEER®

All aboard amazing

Three ways to book: ① RockyMountaineer.com ② Toll-free 1.800.665.7245 ③ Contact your travel agent

Terms & Conditions: *Offer valid on new 2016 bookings made by March 4, 2016. Offer is applicable to qualifying Rocky Mountaineer packages of 4 or more nights on select dates in GoldLeaf or SilverLeaf Service. Travel between April and October 2016 on select dates. Deposits are required at the time of booking. Maximum offer value of \$300 per adult bonus credit (\$600 bonus per couple) is with qualifying vacations of seven nights or more in GoldLeaf or SilverLeaf Service. Bonus credit amount varies by duration of vacation; packages of 4-6 nights in duration may qualify for \$200 per adult bonus credit (\$400 bonus per couple). Credits can only be used towards the purchase of additional services offered by Rocky Mountaineer. Offer has no cash value. Credit values are expressed in CAD and will be converted to USD at time of booking at the exchange rate for the package booking. US guests must pay in USD. Additional conditions apply.


TRAVELER

GETAWAYS

THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE FOR PLANNING YOUR NEXT JOURNEY



Discover the soul of Peru

Our local guides were born into a world of adventure. Their connection to the Incas will have you fall in love with the culture and they'll take you into places that some Peruvians don't even know about. Hike the world famous Classic Inca Trail, or join us on the lesser known but equally as stunning Lares Inca Trail as you journey through the Andes to discover the ancient ruins of Machu Picchu. Explore Cusco and the Amazon Basin, cycle the Sacred Valley and kayak Lake Titicaca. If this sounds like you, then you'll love our 'Jaguar' trip. Hiking permits will sell out fast and now is the perfect time to secure your spot!

Get your FREE travel brochure at:

ActiveAdventures.com/South-America 800.661.9073



Go Expedition Cruising in the Peruvian Amazon

Deep in the Peruvian Amazon, Delfin Amazon Cruises will take you into the world's largest protected flooded forests, the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve. Experienced guides will show you the immense biodiversity of the area. In this bird-watching haven, be ready to encounter howler monkeys, white caymans, sloths, iguanas, and many more. Voyages include visits to native villages, kayaking, opportunities to swim near pink river dolphins, fishing, daytime hiking, stand-up paddle boarding, and night safaris. On board, guests can enjoy exquisite Amazonian cuisine in an authentic, intimate setting with the right amount of elegance and comfort.

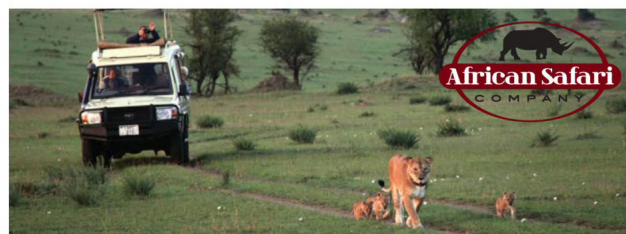
delfinamazoncruises.com 844.4.DELFIN



Custom Mountain Gorilla Trekking

The world's last mountain gorillas roam the Virunga Mountains between Uganda and Rwanda. Trekking with Deeper Africa ensures success as we match your ability to the right gorilla family. This is the land of *Gorillas in the Mist*. Explore it with the best.

deeperafrica.com 888.658.7102



Africa Is Calling

We are your experts. For over 15 years, our family-owned company has designed safaris for photographers, families, and honeymooners to East and Southern Africa. We take pride in our first-hand knowledge of destinations and lodgings in the top wildlife parks in 12 African countries.

Africansafarico.com 800.414.3090



Lares Adventure to Machu Picchu in First-Class Lodges

Explore the most iconic Inca sites in the Sacred Valley and travel among traditional weavers' mountain villages on your way to Machu Picchu, with views of snowcapped peaks and remote valleys. Mountain Lodges of Peru offers accommodations in new first-class lodges, with gourmet cuisine and even a Jacuzzi. Throughout the trip you will be escorted by our experienced local guides, with hiking activities suited to all levels of difficulty and length. Five- and seven-day all-inclusive programs from Cusco to Cusco. Explore your own sense of adventure. We invite you to become a pioneer.

Mountainlodgesofperu.com 877.491.5261



Machu Picchu—Lodge to Lodge—at Its Finest

On this 7-day, fully guided adventure from the base of spectacular Mount Salkantay to Machu Picchu, you'll trek through 15 biozones, traverse a mountain pass at 15,340 feet, see the convergence of 3 rivers, discover villages where locals maintain age-old traditions, and witness the majesty of Machu Picchu, the crown jewel of the Inca Empire.

Best of all, you'll travel from lodge to lodge along uncrowded trails in areas so remote that your only company may be a mighty condor. Your only task on this journey of a lifetime is to follow in the footsteps of the Inca. Reserve your space now.

Mountainlodgesofperu.com 877.491.5261



First-Class Travel at Bargain Prices

12-Day Incredible India With Tiger Reserve from \$1,799 air inclusive
22-Day Grand Tour of India from \$3,999 air inclusive

Dream Itineraries, Wonderful Hotels, Great Guides, Local Cuisine, People-to-People Experiences. We invite you to search and compare, defying anyone to do it better!

With great passion we design our itineraries, select our hotels, train our tour guides, arrange our meals of local flavors, and provide an up-close look at locals and their daily lives—just as a first-time traveler would do it for themselves, if they knew how.

Knowing our destinations inside out, we challenge ourselves to create life-changing journeys at a very affordable price.

worldspree.com 866.652.5656



Exotic Bali With Optional Singapore or Hong Kong

Exotic, spiritual, artistic, idyllic, and incredibly beautiful, the tropical Bali offers an island experience unlike any other beach destination. To show our respect for this unique destination, we are proudly introducing a new kind of group tour, which combines:

- The convenience of escorted travel during five nights at a boutique hotel in Bali's cultural capital, Ubud
 - A relaxing "vacation within a vacation" with four nights at a Balinese ocean front resort on Dusa Dua's white sand beach
 - The flexibility of independent "Do It Yourself" travel with optional extension to Singapore and Hong Kong
 - Our concept of "Local Connections" and "Earth Connections" programs
- 11-Day package with Cathay Pacific Air from only \$2,099

worldspree.com 866.652.5656



New Zealand 'World Heritage Walking Tour'

We know it can be overwhelming looking for your New Zealand 'Trip of a Lifetime.' So we have put it all together in one very special experience—our 'World Heritage Walking Tour,' and we reckon this is the very best of our country and the only way to see it!

As you explore the most spectacular walks, scenery, and activities in the land, our Kiwi guides will look after you every step of the way. You'll love our small, super-friendly groups, four-star accommodations, and fabulous food and wine.

SO...let's talk about your 'Trip of a Lifetime' now!

newzealandtrails.com 877.796.0416



The Outer Banks of North Carolina

With 100 miles of beaches, you'll find plenty of open space, along with fresh sea air and sunshine to melt away those winter blues. Our beaches aren't just for the summer. Some of the best shells can be found here in the winter months, and the migration of whales, seals, and birds is just beginning. We also have history, mystery, adventure, festivals, great gallery finds, and unique shops.

Local chefs join forces each March to bring you Taste of Beach, the tastiest feast around featuring fresh, local seafood and unique spins on classic dishes.

Get your free travel guide and start planning your Outer Banks vacation. Find what feeds your #OuterbanksSoul.

Outerbanks.org 877.629.4386



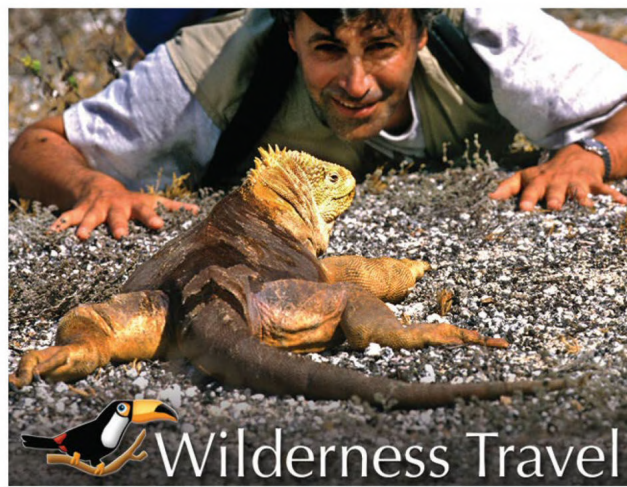
We Offer Memorable Journeys to China

How about a sheer climb up the Great Wall that could be the start of your next one million steps, a gaze onto the face of a Terracotta Warrior that could last for another two thousand years, or be awed by the majestic sights of the gorges along the Yangtze River?

We promise you five-star hotel comforts and seamless memorable experiences under expert guidance of our caring and knowledgeable team. Nothing is left to chance with us when even your en-route travel insurance is complimentary.

Always Best Quality and Value in Travel.

RitzTours.com 888.345.7489

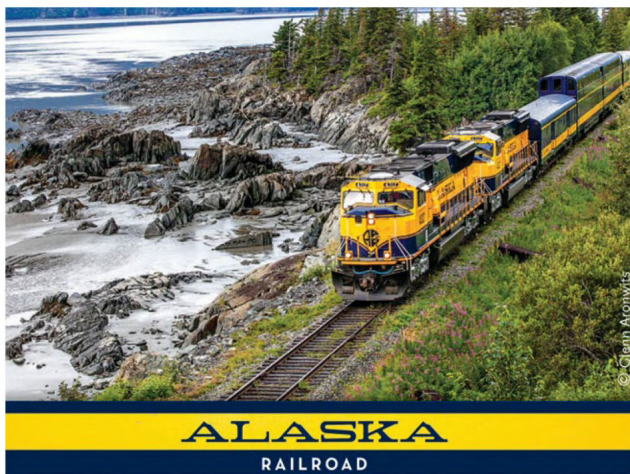


One Destination, Three Adventures, Infinite Fun!

The Galápagos Islands are absolutely extraordinary and brimming with wildlife! We've been exploring its diverse terrain for nearly four decades, and have perfected not one, but three epic trips that reawaken your spirit of adventure. With a small sailing yacht as your base and endless options (daily hikes, Zodiac cruises, sea kayaking, snorkeling excursions, and more!), you'll experience thrilling up-close encounters with colorful birds, playful marine life, and fascinating species that have no fear of humans. Join us, your dream Galápagos journey awaits!

- Expert naturalist guides, small groups—just 16 guests!
- Private Journeys available
- Discounts for children, no single supplement!

wildernesstravel.com 800.368.2794

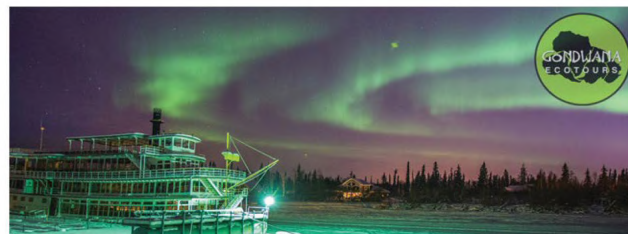


Alaska Railroad

From the wild beauty of the Kenai Fjords to the towering majesty of Denali National Park, Alaska is home to spectacular sights—and when you travel with the Alaska Railroad, you'll enjoy the journey as much as the destinations.

The Alaska Railroad offers daily summer service to Anchorage, Seward, Fairbanks, Denali Park, and more. With onboard dining, knowledgeable Alaskan tour guides, comfortable seating, and stunning views of backcountry Alaska, we think you'll agree that the best way to see Alaska is on the Railroad.

alaskarailroad.com 800.544.0552



A Trip for the Bucket List!

Search for the Aurora Borealis on this one-of-a-kind ecotour. After viewing the Northern Lights, soak in a steamy hot spring, hike with reindeer, have a drink at an ice bar, try curling, and dogsled through Alaskan forests and plains. This is only the beginning!

GondwanaEcotours.com/lights 877.587.8479



Breathtaking Fjords & Spectacular Walks Await

Discover Norway's Lofoten Islands and venture deep into the country's famed western fjords. Look out for whales as you cruise under the midnight sun; explore a medieval church and Viking ruins; stroll through Bergen's colorful wharf and more authentic adventures!

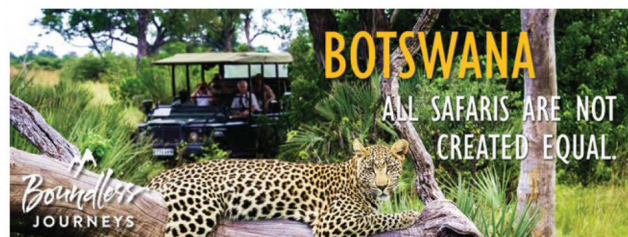
GondwanaEcotours.com/Norway 877.587.8479



NEW 2016-17 Antarctica Brochure Out Now

Our ship-based expeditions take small groups of passengers to experience the best of Antarctica! With over 20 years' experience, we push the boundaries with flexible, innovative itineraries, daily shore excursions, up-close wildlife encounters, and an expert team.

aurora-expeditions.com info@aurora-expeditions.com



Boutique Adventure Travel

Voted as a "World's Best" Tour Operator, our passion is to create outstanding travel experiences for people with an adventurous spirit. We offer worldwide adventure tours featuring experiences ranging from cultural walking journeys, to wilderness treks, to African safaris.

boundlessjourneys.com 800.941.8010



Trips of a Lifetime Under the Midnight Sun

Wilderness rafting/hiking/canoeing in Alaska, Yukon, and NWT: Nahanni, Tatshenshini, Alsek, Firth, Wind, and more. 6-14 days. Mountains, glaciers, wildlife, amazing scenery, superb hiking. Friendly, knowledgeable guides, great food, best stories. Est. 1972.

nahanni.com 800.297.6927



Play in the Center of It All

With a great selection of 135 attractions, the fun never ends in Greensboro! Centrally located in North Carolina's picturesque heartland, Greensboro is the perfect place to relax and be immersed in entertainment. Play in the center of it all!

visitgreensboronc.com 800.344.2282



Rated Africa's #1 Outfitter by NatGeo Adventure

Pioneers of the legendary 100 Kilometre Serengeti Foot Traverse, Nat Geo's 2015 Trip of a Lifetime. With 20 years of experience, we are Tanzania's leading professional guides for remote walking safaris, family safaris, and the Serengeti migration.

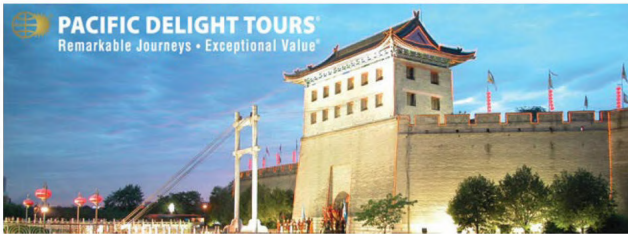
thorntonsafaris.com +255.787.541.686



Off the Beaten Track—Festivals in Asia

World Expeditions has put together a number of special departures that take in some of the most interesting summer festivals in Asia – May: Saga Dawa Festival (Tibet), June: Hemis Festival (Ladakh), July: Naadam Festival (Mongolia). Let's celebrate!

worldexpeditions.com 800.567.2216



Luxury Tour: 12-Day Imperial China & Yangtze River

Enjoy 12 days on our Imperial China & Yangtze River Gold Experience tour. Highlights: historic Beijing, ancient Xi'an, a scenic Yangtze River Cruise, cosmopolitan Shanghai, FiveStarPlus® hotels and luxurious amenities on board Victoria Cruises. Ask us for the new brochure.

pacificdelighttours.com/T6YX12VD.aspx 800.221.7179



Iran, Silk Route and Beyond

Adventures in unconventional destinations: Venture to the cross-roads of Europe and Asia with MIR, specializing in handcrafted small group and private journeys since 1986. Experience the landscapes of Iran, Central Asia's Five 'Stans, Siberia & beyond.

mircorp.com/ngt 800.424.7289



Custom Luxury Travel to Asia

Asia Transpacific Journeys is the premier tour operator for travel to Asia, specializing in personally crafted Custom Journeys. With over 27 years of experience, our Travel Specialists utilize their knowledge of Asia, planning your perfect *Journey Beyond the Ordinary*™.

asiatranspacific.com 800.642.2742



Custom Costa Rica Adventures

With more than 27 years of experience, Costa Rica Experts make the difference between a good trip and a lifetime memory. Custom design your vacation to include adventure, wildlife and pristine beaches. Explore rainforests, jungles and volcanoes.

Costaricaexperts.com 800.827.9046



Amazon River Cruise

Experience the Amazon like never before—on an Amazon River Cruise with Tara Tours. From US\$2,122 per person for seven nights, this package includes all excursions, local airfare, guides, and more.

taratours.com/ecuador.htm 800.327.0080



Expert-led Archaeological Tours

Journey to ancient worlds with Andante Travels. Founded and run by archaeologists, Andante Travels run expert-led archaeological and cultural tours to destinations worldwide. From Classical Greece to Peru's Incan civilizations—there is a tour for every taste!

andantetravels.com 888.331.3476



PARTING SHOT

MONARCH OF PARKS

“A beautiful piece of wild country,” enthused conservationist Margaret Murie of Grand Teton National Park in the 1960s. A relative latecomer to the park system (1929), Grand Teton encompasses sawtooth peaks known as the “Cathedral Group,” the glacier-fed waters of Jackson Lake—and a wealth of wildlife, from moose and elk to an occasional fox. “The grand lift of the Tetons is more than a mechanistic fold and faulting of the earth’s crust,” wrote famed nature photographer Ansel Adams. “It becomes a primal gesture of the earth beneath a greater sky.”

■ DOWNLOAD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC'S NATIONAL PARKS APP AT THE ITUNES STORE.

COPYRIGHT © 2016 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PARTNERS, LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TRAVELER: REGISTERED TRADEMARK © MARCA REGISTRADA. PRINTED IN THE U.S.A.

WEBSITE: natgeotravel.com LETTERS: *National Geographic Traveler*, 1145 17th St. N.W., Washington, DC 20036. Please include address, e-mail, and daytime telephone number. MASTHEAD: natgeotravel.com/masthead. SUBSCRIBER SERVICES: ngtservice.com, 1-800-NGS-LINE (647-5463). *Traveler* also is available for the iPad through iTunes.

Find *Traveler* at magfinder.magnetdata.net. Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and Pinterest.

Volume XXXIII, Number 1, *National Geographic Traveler* (ISSN 0747-0932) is published six times a year (February/March, April/May, June/July, August/September, October/November, December/January) by National Geographic Partners, LLC, 1145 17th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. \$19.95 a year, \$5.99 a copy. Periodicals postage paid at Washington, D.C., and at additional mailing offices. SUBSCRIBER: If the Postal Service alerts us that your magazine is undeliverable, we have no further obligation unless we receive a corrected address within two years. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *National Geographic Traveler*, P.O. Box 62134, Tampa, FL 33662-2134. In Canada, agreement number 40063649, return undeliverable Canadian addresses to *National Geographic Traveler*, P.O. Box 4412 STA A, Toronto, Ontario M5W 3W2. We occasionally make subscriber names available to companies whose products or services may be of interest to you. You may request that your name be removed from promotional lists by calling 1-800-NGS-LINE (647-5463). To prevent your name from being made available to all direct mail companies, contact: Mail Preference Service, c/o Direct Marketing Association, P.O. Box 9008, Farmingdale, NY 11735-9008. Printed in the U.S.A.

WHO WE ARE IS WHAT WE LEAVE BEHIND.

It's been said our lives, our legacies, are simply the sum total of all the choices we make. Theodore Roosevelt certainly understood this when, in 1906, he fought the conventional wisdom of his time and set aside millions of acres of land to be preserved for future generations. And it's something Subaru understood when, over a decade ago, we became the first U.S. auto manufacturer to achieve zero landfill, with all waste recycled or turned into electricity. It wasn't easy. Doing the right thing rarely is. But like President Roosevelt, we made a commitment to something we believe in: the future. It's this promise that now leads us to share our expertise with the National Park Service and the National Parks Conservation Association as we work together toward the goal of making our irreplaceable national treasures zero landfill as well. Because loving the earth means understanding you can't throw anything away, because there simply is no "away."

Get involved, and see the ongoing documentary series
at subaru.com/environment.



*This is not
a chalice.
This is five
years of
clean
drinking
water.*

Every day, women in the
developing world spend millions
of hours collecting water.
Imagine what they could
do if they didn't have to.

1 Limited
Edition
Chalice | 5 Years
Clean
Water

Leave your mark at BuyaLadyaDrink.com



\$6.25 provides clean water to 1 person for 5 years.

Stella Artois will donate \$6.25 for each chalice in the U.S., up to 90,000 chalices.

StellaArtois.com

ENJOY RESPONSIBLY

© 2016 Anheuser-Busch InBev S.A., Stella Artois® Beer, Imported by Import Brands Alliance, St. Louis, MO



Be Legacy

